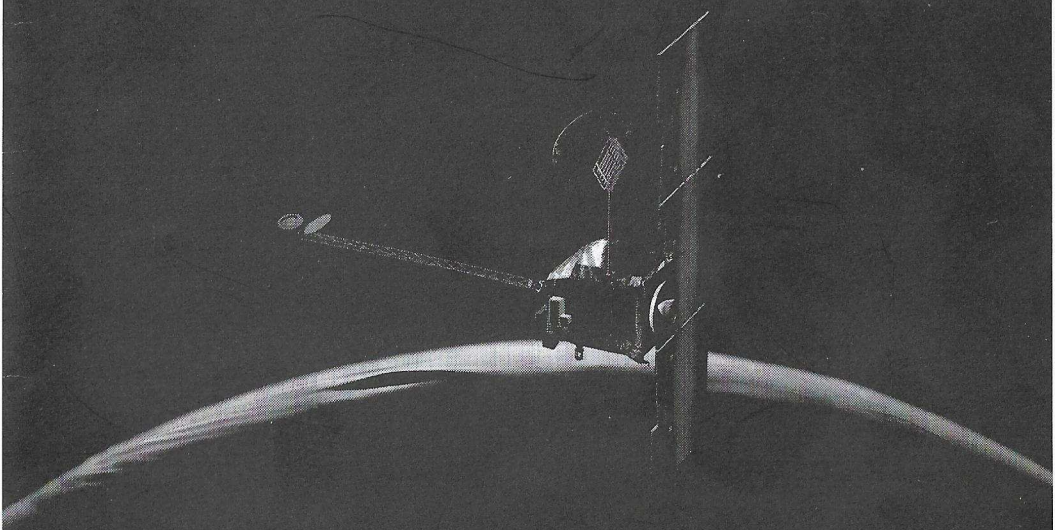
ODYSSEY 2010

README



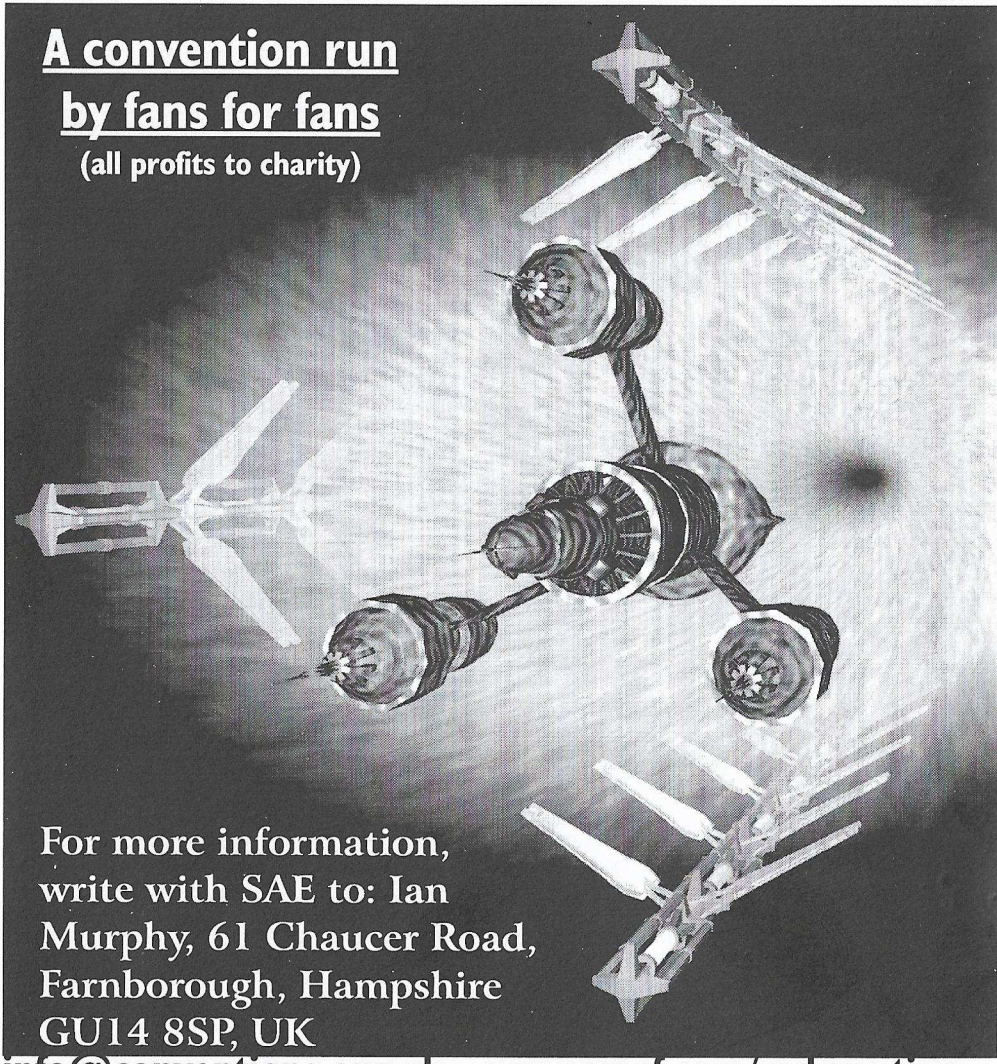
THE 61ST BRITISH NATIONAL
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
RADISSON EDWARDIAN HEATHROW
2 - 5 APRIL 2010

REDEMPTION '11

25 – 27 February 2011

Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK

Multimedia Science Fiction Convention



A convention run by fans for fans

(all profits to charity)

For more information, write with SAE to: Ian Murphy, 61 Chaucer Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8SP, UK

info@conventions.org.uk www.smof.com/redemption

Welcome to Odyssey 2010 at the Radisson Edwardian Heathrow. We hope you have a brilliant time and are inspired to join the next two Eastercons after the Bid Session at noon on Sunday.

This booklet contains important information about the convention, and descriptions of the hundreds of items on the programme. It is meant to be read in conjunction with the Pocket Programme Guide, which contains the hotel maps and the programme grids that show you what is happening, when, and where. We have also produced a Kids' Programme booklet for our younger members, and an electronic version is available on our web site.

We have worked hard to ensure the printed programme is as accurate as possible, however it is likely that there will be some last minute changes both before and at the convention - keep an eye on the Newsletter and notice boards around the con for programme updates. We are also hoping to be able to make a special surprise announcement related to Doctor Who.

OPS

Ops is the convention headquarters. If you have a problem related to the convention, go to Ops (room 32 on the third floor) and ask for help. If you have a problem related to the hotel, ask the hotel staff first. If the hotel staff fail to resolve your problem, let Ops know about it and we will do our best to help.

Ops opening times are as follows:

Thursday	9pm to 11pm
Friday	9am to 11pm
Saturday	9am to 11pm
Sunday	9am to 11pm
Monday	9am to 4pm

When Ops is closed, a Duty Committee Member will be available to assist until Ops re-opens. You can identify them by their gold shirt, sash and DCM badge. They will normally be somewhere in the social space, but if you have trouble finding them, anyone with a walkie talkie should be able to get hold of them.

BADGES

You must wear your convention badge at all times when you are in the convention areas of the hotel. You will be challenged if your badge is not visible. If you lose your badge, please report the loss to Ops as soon as possible. If you find a lost badge, please hand it in at Ops.

VOLUNTEERING

A convention the size of Odyssey needs lots and lots of volunteers. A great way to help out while making new friends and having fun (and earning Groats – see below) is by becoming a Gopher. To find out more, come along to one of the Volunteers' Meetings (Thursday 10PM in Newbury 2, or Friday 9pm in room 41) or inquire at the Gopher Hole (room 31).

GROATS

Groats (Gopher Reward Tokens) are given to convention volunteers as a "thank you," e.g. for completing a gophering shift. The denominations available are £1, £2, and the incredibly rare and collectible £5. Groats can be used to buy food or drink in the convention bars (or kept as a souvenir!). Some dealers will accept groats too. You should receive change when you spend them. NB. They can't be exchanged for real money or spent in the hotel shop or the Polo Bar, and they lose their value after the Dead Dog Party.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Please be considerate of others. We appreciate that not everybody likes to be photographed or videoed, so we will be offering special brightly-coloured "NO PHOTO" badge ribbons at Registration. Please avoid photographing people who are wearing these ribbons or who otherwise request not to be photographed, and if you later discover that you accidentally captured a picture or video of somebody who was wearing a ribbon, please delete it.

All photography is banned:

- In the art show.
- In the crèche.
- During the Masquerade (there will be a photo call afterwards).

Flash photography is limited to the first five minutes of panel items and banned during the Cabaret. Please do not block the aisles/doors/fire exits with tripods and other camera equipment.

Except for the above restrictions and any further restrictions we publicise at the beginning of any programme item, members should be aware that they may be photographed or recorded at any time while in public areas. The term "public areas" covers all parts of the hotel other than bedroom space and washroom facilities.

WEAPONS POLICY

No weapon or weapon-like object (whether edged, projectile, bludgeoning etc.) or a facsimile thereof shall be carried within the convention area. The operations manager on duty shall decide what constitutes a weapon and his decision will be final. Any weapon used as part of a costume at the masquerade must be taken to and from the area wrapped. Any weapon sold in the dealers room must remain securely wrapped from the time of purchase and must be taken away from the convention in this manner.

Note that hall costumes are not exempt from the weapons policy. If you are in any doubt as to whether an item counts as a weapon for the purposes of this policy, ask Ops *before* bringing it into the convention. Please use your common sense. Remember the hotel is next to a major international airport, so local police are likely to take very seriously any reports of people seen carrying anything that looks like a weapon.

POSTERS

The hotel has a fairly strict policy about what convention members can put up on the walls. Posters that don't meet the following rules are liable to be removed and disposed of.

- Posters are not allowed in public areas of the hotel.
- Only use White Tack to stick posters up. No Blu Tack, Sellotape, staples, etc.
- Only stick posters to hard surfaces: stone, glass, varnished wood, etc. **Not** wallpaper.
- Posters must be in good taste, professional-looking, and not hand-written.
- Posters must not obscure official hotel or convention signs.

MOBILE PHONES

Please remember to turn off or silence your mobile phone when you are in a programme item. If you absolutely have to take a call, please avoid banging the door and disturbing other audience members as you leave the room.

NEWSLETTER

We will be producing regular newsletters throughout the convention to entertain and inform you about interesting programme items, changes to the programme, local restaurant reviews, etc. The newsletter team is based in room 37, where your submissions (both written articles and photos) will be gratefully received.

ART SHOW

The art show is in room 38. Opening times are as follows:

Friday	1pm to 6pm
Friday eve.	7pm to 8:30pm (for the *Meet the Artists* session)
Saturday	10am to 6pm
Sunday	10am to 12pm
Monday	**CLOSED**

The art auction is at 2pm on Sunday. Note that only items that have at least one pre-auction bid will go to the auction (please ask the art show staff for help if you wish to bid on an item and are not familiar with the system).

DEALERS' ROOM

The Dealers' Room (the County Suite on the ground floor) is the place to go to buy books, games, merchandise, and lots of other cool stuff. Opening times are as follows:

Friday	2pm to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 6pm
Sunday	10am to 6pm
Monday	10am to 3pm

GREEN ROOM

If you are on a programme item, please go to the Green Room (room 33) 15 minutes before the item is due to start, to meet your fellow item participants and order your complimentary drink. The Green Room will close at 10pm so if you are on a late item, go before 10pm if you wish to claim your drink.

CRÈCHE

There will be a crèche run by a professional childcare company in room 11. Places are limited and priority will be given to members who booked in advance. The sessions are as follows:

Friday	2pm to 6pm		
Saturday	9am to 1pm	and	2pm to 6pm
Sunday	9am to 1pm	and	2pm to 6pm
Monday	9am to 1pm		

When you leave your child you will be given a "child retrieval token" which you will need to bring with you when you return to collect your child. *Do not lose it!* If you are late in collecting your child at the end of a session, you will be liable for the cost of the crèche staff's overtime.

Evening babysitting can be provided for an additional fee, subject to availability (contact Lydia on 07931 449467 to make arrangements).

FOOD

Meals are served at the following times/locations:

Thursday Evening Buffet	7pm to 9pm in Newbury 2
Breakfast	7am to 10:30am in the Brasserie and Newbury 1&2
Buffet lunch	11am to 2pm in Newbury 1
Buffet dinner	6pm to 8pm in Newbury 1
Late night snacks	10pm to 1am in the Atrium

A selection of bar snacks (e.g. jacket potato, salad, chocolate bars) will also be available from the Atrium bar, and the Brasserie opens as a restaurant from 7:30pm to 11pm. See also the separate "README Outside" for a list of places to eat outside the hotel.

DRINK

Real ale will be served in the Atrium. Opening times are:

Atrium	11am to 2am (possibly later if there are still enough people buying drinks)
Polo Bar	2pm to 2am
Henleys	7pm to 11pm

Convention prices for drinks in the Atrium and Henleys bars are as follows:

Real Ale – Atrium only (pint)	£3.50
Soft drinks (pint)	£1.50
Soft drinks (small)	£1
Tea or coffee	£1
Normal beer (pint)	£2.90
Cider (pint)	£2.90
Red or white wine (glass)	£3
Red or white wine (bottle)	£15
Rose wine (glass)	£4
Rose wine (bottle)	£20

Drinks are also available from the Polo Bar, however they will be charging their normal prices rather than the convention rate, and they will not accept Groats.

PARKING

The Radisson will charge you £5 *for the first twenty-four hours* after you enter the car park, and another £5 for each additional twenty-four hour period. This rate is available to all convention members, not just those resident in the Radisson. **NB. if you leave the car park, you will lose any remaining time you had on your ticket, and will have to pay another £5 for the twenty-four hour period from the time of your return.**

Parking is free for blue badge holders. Parking for ordinary motorcycles is free, but not for three-wheelers or motorcycles with side-cars.

INTERNET ACCESS

There is an Internet lounge next the the front entrance of the hotel. There is also free WiFi throughout the hotel. There is a limited amount of bandwidth shared between everyone in the hotel, so please use it considerately.

BSFA AWARDS

The British Science Fiction Association will be presenting its annual awards at 6pm on Sunday in Commonwealth. As a member of the Eastercon you are entitled to vote for the winners, unless you have already cast a vote as a BSFA member. A ballot paper should have been included in your membership pack. Place your completed ballot in the box near Registration or at the BSFA desk in the Dealers' Room. Voting closes at noon on Sunday.

DOC WEIR AWARD

The Doc Weir Award is given at the Eastercon to somebody whom the members consider deserves more recognition for the services they have performed for fandom - a sort of 'unsung hero' award. You should have received a ballot form in your membership pack. Fill it in and bring it to Ops by noon on Monday to place your vote.

HALL COSTUMES

Saturday is Hall Costume day. You should have received three Hall Costume Tokens in your membership pack. Give them to people you see wearing particularly impressive costumes at the convention on Saturday. The person who collects the most tokens will win a prize. You can even give all three to one person if you wish! Don't be too hasty though; some costumers do not dress up until later on in the day.

KIDS' PROGRAMMING

In addition to the free crèche, quite a few items on the programme are particularly suitable for kids. Child and Junior members will have been given a copy of the Kids' Programme book when they collected their badge at Registration.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

A small number of post-9pm items on the programme are adults-only. These items will have a gopher on the door to ensure that nobody under 18 years of age is allowed to enter the room.

KAFFEEKLATSCHES

Kaffeeklatsches are opportunities for small groups of fans to meet and chat to our Guests of Honour over coffee and biscuits. If you would like to take part in one, add your name to the relevant sign-up sheet at Registration. The list will close 2 ½ hours before the Kaffeeklatsch is due to start.

A small number of people will be randomly chosen from those on the list. Their names will be posted on the Registration desk two hours before the Kaffeeklatsch. If you are one of those chosen, you have an hour to confirm that you still wish to attend, otherwise your place will be given to somebody else (so even if you aren't chosen in the first round, check back later in case somebody has dropped out).

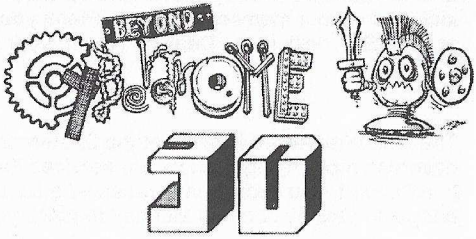
OTHER SIGN-UPS

There will also be sign-up sheets at Registration for the Crisis Management Workshops, the Drawing Comic Art item, and more.

If you wish to take part in the Whisky Tasting (over-18s only!), sign up at Ops from 10am on Saturday (first come first served).

BEYOND CYBERDROME 3D

BY SMS



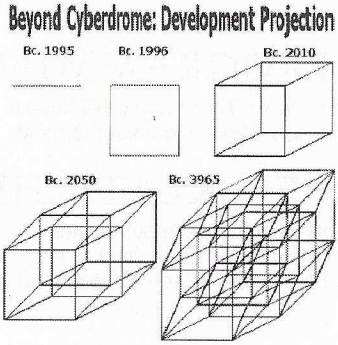
BC's been away for a few years now and we've appreciated both the rest and the opportunity to do other stuff (*I'm Sorry I Haven't a Robot* and *The Great Crystal Cyberdrome Exhibition* f'rinstance), but the Kidz in The Hallz are getting older and forming into gangs and, frankly, we're not brave enough to say no to enthusiastic kids with spanners.

So, what's new with Beyond Cyberdrome 2010?

Well, as you'll have noticed from the snazzy new logo above, we're "Extending BC into another Dimension". How slick is *that* for a slogan?

But, *unusually* for an overused advertising term, we actually *mean* it.

Whilst BC has usually been played in a fundamentally 2D Universe (on a flat plane), this year we're planning on building a 3D 'course' on which Up and Down will play a central part of the action.



And, where better to experiment with this new dimension than in the Radisson Non-Euclidean, wherein people become lost in Escher-Space/Time and, between conventions, even the central hall can completely change dimensions and appearance?

Pedants will say, "Um, Smuzz," (I'm on first name terms with pedants), "I think you'll find 'BC: Air' and 'BC: Sea' will have covered the Up/Down dynamic pretty thoroughly." To them we say: "Shhh. You're spoiling our pitch for people with shorter memories."

So, essentially, we're asking you to come to the Robot Workshop and build a robot which is able, not just to move horizontally, but also:

- Across an obstacle course with 'Instant Down Portals.' (Yes. That's 'Holes.')
- Up an incline. (Steepness increasing with height)
- Down a steep incline under control.
- Along a narrow bar.
- Vertically up. (That's a challenge. Yes, we're happy however you do it.)
- Vertically down. (Yes, that would be, 'Falling and Surviving.')
- Any/all of the above, while duelling another robot!

As ever, if you can come up with *anything* interesting on this theme, we'll try to work it in. Oh... and, if you're **really** lucky, you'll get **3D Glasses** too! But, just in case, bring yer own...

THURSDAY

Ikea Workshop. 2pm-6pm. *Royal C+D.* Help assemble furniture for the social seating areas. If there's a sofa/chair that you'd like to take home with you after the Dead Dog party, agree a price with us and we'll tag it with your name. Nige.

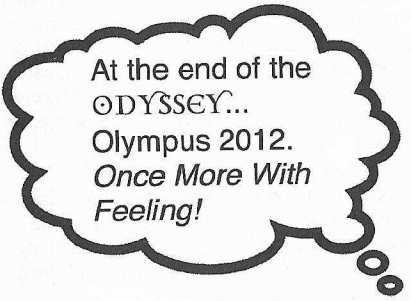
Newsletter Recruitment and Teaching Session. 6pm-9pm. *Room 37.* Learn how to set up, organise and run a newsroom. Wilf, our expert, will be retiring soon. This is your chance to learn from the best (Wilf and his shift managers Jan and Eddie) and maybe run your own newsroom at some future convention. Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent and Wilf James.

Thursday Evening Meal. 7pm-9pm. *Newbury 2.* A chance for all the early arrivals to share a meal and have a relaxed social beginning to the convention.

Pub Quiz. 9pm-10pm. *Newbury 2.* A fun quiz to get things going, just be careful, the obvious answer may not be the right one! (Anyone found using mobiles etc. to look up answers will be made to do the washing up!) Affordable Graham.

Newsletter Recruitment and Teaching Session. 9pm-11pm. *Room 37.* The Newsletter Teaching Session continues. You don't have to be here all the time, but you can stay as long as you like. Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent and Wilf James.

Volunteers' Meeting. 10pm-11pm. *Newbury 2.* Would you like to help with the convention? Come along and join the gopher team. No experience required - all welcome. The volunteers' meeting will start when the evening social meal ends. Rachael Livermore.



FRIDAY

Crafts After Breakfast - Clangers and Lightsabers. 8am-9am. *Room 19.* Work on one of the projects provided - knitting a Clanger, for example - or just bring along your own craft project and work in company. Jacqui.

Breakfast. 7am-10:30am. *Newbury 1.* Rise and shine. Meet your fellow fans for breakfast and enjoy the start of the day.

Were Fans Bullied at School? 9am-10am. *Connaught.* Is fandom seen as a 'safe haven'? Did we turn to SF as escapist literature? Do we feel that intellectual people are superior? Paul Cornell (mod), Mad Elf, Gérard Kraus and Jenni Woodward.

Tai Chi. 9am-10am. *Royal C+D.* Start your day with some gentle exercise.

I Want to Help and I Don't Know Where to Go. 9am-1pm. *Room 31.* You want to help with convention set-up, but you're not sure who needs help or where to find them. Sit in this room and chat, and anyone needing extra hands to move boxes, put up signs, assemble art boards, shop for things we forgot, etc. will come and find you.

Life of a Hydrogen Atom. 10am-11am. *Connaught.* The universe around us is made up of many different types of atoms, yet only two types, hydrogen and helium, were created in the Big Bang. Other elements have been formed by a wide variety of fascinating astrophysical processes since then. This talk will take you on a quick tour of some of these processes by following the life story of one of the simplest things in the universe - a proton - from its birth in the Big Bang to its death, swallowed up by a black hole. Nik Whitehead.

North West Morris Dancing for Beginners. 10am-11am. *Royal C+D.* North West Morris originates in areas like Lancashire. It was typically danced in processions and at carnivals - often with the village band. It's a colourful, lively dance and a great way to start your morning. Wear whatever you like. Musicians welcome. Tony Ballantyne and Judith Proctor.

FRIDAY

Comics 101 - Essential Comics for New Readers. 11am-12pm. *Connaught.* What comics would our panel choose to introduce new readers to comics? What will they recommend as genre classics? Mike Carey, Crazy Dave (mod), Claude Lalumière, Pádraig Ó Méalóid and Sam Sykes.

Kate Bush as a Fantasy Author. 11am-12pm. *Room 12.* Kate Bush is a multi-award winning British singer/songwriter/dancer/director, but Paul Cornell asserts that she's also one of the great unsung fantasy creators. Find out why in this lecture/presentation, illustrated (hopefully!) with excerpts from some of her songs. Paul Cornell.

Terry Pratchett - Time Travel and Alternative History. 11am-12pm. *Room 41.* Jessica Yates discusses the strand of time travel fiction which deals with going back in time to change the past and the future OR to keep history the same as it always was, and looks at a number of all-time classics before discussing Pratchett's Thief of Time and Night Watch. Jessica Yates.

Conversational German. 11am-12pm. *Room 40.* If you'd like to practice speaking German with German fans, here's your chance. Sabine Furlong and Ecki Marwitz.

Convention Buffet Lunch. 11am-2pm. *Newbury 1.* The convention buffet lunch is served in the Brasserie and in Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, please tell the hotel staff in the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Book Collections - How Do You Store/Index Your Library? 12pm-1pm. *Connaught.* "I gave my books a room and then they took over the house." When you have a massive book collection, how do you make your collection accessible? What online or offline catalogue do you use? Access? Library Thing? Delicious? Nicholas Jackson (mod), Edward James and Susan Stepney.

Animatronics - Artificial Intelligence? 12pm-1pm. *Room 12.* Is Jetta's PLEO baby dinosaur a real example of artificial intelligence, or just the product of simple programming? Tony Ballantyne, Gaspodia, Martin McGrath (mod), Tony Naggs and Michael Owen.

FRIDAY

Craft: Create Your Own Eggy Characters. 12pm-1pm. *Royal C+D.* A chance to recreate your favourite characters in egg format - a perfect icebreaker for Easter! Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin and elfin.

Homer's Odyssey - The World's First Fantasy Novel. 12pm-1pm. *Room 41.* Classics graduate, fantasy novelist and genre reviewer, Juliet E McKenna explores The Odyssey's enduring appeal, what it offers modern readers and its lessons for aspiring writers. Juliet E. McKenna.

What are we showing? 12pm-12:30pm. *Room 42.* Come and find out what is in the screening room this weekend. Emma Peel.

Master of the Universe Quiz. 1pm-3pm. *Connaught.* 'Millionaire'-type interactive quiz. Come along and join in, or just be a member of the audience. elfin.

Iain Banks Before The Wasp Factory. 1pm-2pm. *Room 12.* Iain Banks wrote a million words before The Wasp Factory. From his teenage action adventures through his early science fiction, this talk looks at what Banks was writing in the Sixties and Seventies. David Haddock.

European Fandom Today. 1pm-2pm. *Room 41.* What are the biggest European conventions? The longest running European SF group? The oldest SF fanzine? The most sociable fannish European nation? Johan Anglemark (mod), Gérard Kraus, Kirill Pleshkov and Roberto Quaglia.

The English in the Marvelverse. 2pm-3pm. *Room 12.* The Marvelverse is a quintessentially American creation, yet crucial recent elements in it were produced by British creators such as Morrison, Ellis, Carey and Cornell. What characteristics has this given to the Marvelverse? Mike Carey, Paul Cornell and Roz Kaveney (mod).

Live Action Video Game Charades. 2pm-3pm. *Royal C+D.* A fun interactive team game for all ages. Demonstrate your superior knowledge of video games, from Lunar Lander and Pong to BioShock. Alison Scott.

FRIDAY

Allergies - an Introduction to Our Current Understanding. 2pm-3pm. *Room 40.* Why are the most interesting people in the world, fans, so afflicted with allergies? Alas, I don't know either. But, as a fellow sufferer and immunologist, I can help you understand this vexatious plague. My talk will cover the various forms of atopy, testing for allergies, and modes of treatment. Brian Gray.

Writing Steampunk. 3pm-4pm. *Connaught.* On writing steampunk; how do you go about constructing a universe and getting the details right? What sort of stories is it easy or difficult to tell in steampunk settings? What exactly is steampunk? Stephen Hunt (mod), Kim Lakin-Smith, Alastair Reynolds and Paul Skevington.

Censorship - Should Parents Control What Their Children Read? 3pm-4pm. *Room 12.* Parents, a librarian, a writer and children discuss whether children should select their own reading material or whether parental guidance should extend to banning inappropriate books/comics. Ian McKenna, Juliet E. McKenna, Caroline Mullan (mod) and Jessica Yates.

Ceilidh Workshop. 3pm-4pm. *Royal C+D.* Never been to a ceilidh? Not sure what you do at one? Come along and learn the basics in a relaxed, friendly workshop. Tony Ballantyne, Mad Elf and Black Knight.

Alien Archeology. 3pm-4pm. *Room 41.* What will our panel of 'experts' make of the various items they are presented with? Is it a Denebian ritual object, or simply a salt shaker? Deirdre Counihan, Lee Harris, Pepper (mod), Sharon Reamer and Rob Rowntree.

Naming Pluto. 3pm-3:30pm. *Room 42.* Naming Pluto is a UK 13 minute documentary about Venetia Burney Phair, the English schoolgirl who named the planet Pluto in 1930, aged 11 years. Featuring Sir Patrick Moore, Dr. Allan Chapman, the Royal Astronomical Society and NASA, Naming Pluto looks back at the extraordinary human story of a young girl who made astronomical history and witnesses her long awaited reunion with the planet she named, 77 years later. Directed by Ginita Jimenez. Produced by Father Films.

FRIDAY

Choral Workshop - Green Hills of Earth. 3pm-5pm. *Room 19.* Learn to sing Robert Heinlein's classic words, in harmony. For singers of all abilities; don't be afraid if you've never tried harmony before. The aim is for the group to perform this in the Cabaret. Kate Soley Barton, Hitch, Valerie Housden and Rhodri James.

Crisis Management Team Game - First Group of Participants. 3pm-5pm. *Room 17.* It's happening on your watch! Do you have a cool head? Can you make decisions under stress? Do you have the stomach needed to make life and death choices for your people and your species, to fend off disaster or decide who goes out the air lock first? A team of professional crisis managers will run teams of six (sign up at Registration) through a half-hour scenario. There are even prizes for those who have the lowest body count, or just survive the game! Nige and Gary Stratmann.

Battlestar Atlantia - Rules, Registration, etc. 3pm-4pm. *Newbury 2.* If you haven't already registered for our Live Action RPG, this is your chance to get a character and learn how the rules work. Jonathan Ely.

Utopia - How the Concept Has Developed in Philosophy and SF. 4pm-5pm. *Commonwealth.* The idea of utopia - the ideal civilisation - dates back thousands of years and has become a staple of modern SF. Has anyone managed to write a truly utopian society, or does utopia for some automatically mean dystopia for others? Iain M. Banks, Elizabeth Counihan, Edward James, Martin McGrath and Nik Whitehead (mod).

Arthur and Merlin - Where Do the Legends Originate? 4pm-5pm. *Connaught.* Kari Sperring (Dr Kari Maund) looks at the earliest references to Arthur and Merlin, and how the legends developed over time. Kari Sperring.

SF – Taking Shows From TV to Audio. 4pm-5pm. *Room 12.* Recent years have seen an upsurge in SF on radio and CD. With no pressure on the budget from visual effects are Torchwood, Dr Who, Blake's 7, Sapphire and Steel, etc. able to do great plots at low cost? Or does the lack of the visual element reduce the appeal of those

shows? How do writers take a well-known show to a new medium? Nickey Barnard, David Bishop, Maura McHugh (mod) and James Swallow.

Hitchiker Games - Towel Origami, Disaster Area Sun-Dive Tour! 4pm-5pm. *Royal C+D.* ZZ9, the Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy Fan Club invites you all to enjoy an entertaining variety of silly games. Towel Origami, the Algorithm March, the Disaster Area Sun Dive game, and more. Bring a towel if you have one handy. Jim Mowatt.

Is the New Trek a Trekkie's Trek? 4pm-5pm. *Room 41.* Reboot Trek was a big success in the cinema. Do fans of the original Classic Star Trek series feel that the film did justice to Kirk and the Enterprise crew? Were some characters actually better in the new version? Gaspode, Steve Green, Una McCormack, Jean Thompson, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin (mod) and John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Robot Workshop (Beyond Cyberdrome 3D). 4pm-5pm. *Room 18.* Come along and build a robot to explore the third dimension. Materials provided. All ages and abilities welcome, though kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Eira, Alex Holden and SMS.

Masquerade and Cabaret Sign-Up. 4pm-5pm. *Room 30.* If you want to be in the masquerade or cabaret on Saturday night, then you must go to one of the two sign-up sessions. If you miss this session the other one is on Saturday morning. We need to know your requirements and to work out your position in the running order. Clare Goodall (mod).

How Writers, Artists and Illustrators Interact. 5pm-6pm. *Commonwealth.* How much communication occurs between writers of novels and cover artists - is it all via the publisher? How much contact is there between writer and illustrator in comics? How much detail does the writer give to the illustrator? Mike Carey, Deirdre Counihan, Carlos Ezquerra, Steve K (mod) and Chris Moore.

Farmville - the Social Dynamics of Online Games. 5pm-6pm. *Connaught.* What is the appeal of games such as Farmville, Scrabble, Lexulous, Bejewelled Blitz etc.? How do the social dynamics of these games operate? How much do they utilise the existing relationships between players? How valuable are those relationships to the organisations running the games? Andrew Barton (mod), Persephone Hazard, The Magician and Ming.

BSFA Survey of British SF Writers - the Conclusions. 5pm-6pm. *Room 12.* Over eighty British writers were asked questions such as, 'How British do you think your work is?', 'How is it received elsewhere?', and 'Do you consider your work to be SF or fantasy, and if so why?' A panel of readers discuss the results. Claire Brialey, Niall Harrison (mod), David Hebblethwaite, John Jarrold and Caroline Mullan.

Multi Dimensional Swap Shop - Comics, DVDs, Games, etc. 5pm-6pm. *Royal C+D.* This event is primarily for kids, so please ensure that all items brought to swap are suitable for under 16s. Don't bring valuable items (check with your parents first). We'll have a box for items you just want to give away and anyone will be able to help themselves from this box. SMS.

How to Be a Panellist or Moderator. 5pm-6pm. *Room 41.* How do you use a microphone? What's the best way to introduce the members of the panel? How do you get your free drink? What's the Green Room for? What is the moderator's job? Fran Dowd, Judith Proctor, Kelvin Proctor and Christian Sauve (mod).

UK vs. US TV - Which Side of the Pond Makes Better Television? 5pm-6pm. *Room 40.* Do US channels like HBO make better programmes because they don't have to schedule around adverts? Do the British have better actors? Do commercial pressures mean some US shows are cancelled too soon? Does the BBC licence fee lead to better or worse TV? Gary Blog, Chad Dixon, Jane Killick, Clarrie O'Callaghan and elfin (mod).

FRIDAY

Universal Soldier: Regeneration - UK Film Premiere. 6pm-8pm. *Commonwealth.* Jean-Claude van Damme and Dolph Lundgren in the latest installment of the Universal Soldier franchise - UK Film Premiere courtesy of SCI-FI-LONDON and Optimum Releasing.

Arthur and Merlin - Modern Interpretations. 6pm-7pm. *Connaught.* How do modern versions of the Arthurian stories compare with earlier ones? Books, films and TV have all created new strands to the legends. Is this a bad thing, or simply the natural progression of folklore? Nickey Barnard, Raven Dane, Edward James, Kari Sperring (mod) and Liz Williams.

Writing Video Games. 6pm-7pm. *Room 12.* What is it like to try to tell a story in a game setting? Why do game stories evolve the way they do? What types of story genres are told in different game genres, and how and why are they effective (or not)? Stephen Gaskell, Jeff Spock and James Swallow (mod).

NewCon Press and Constable & Robinson Book Launch. 6pm-7pm. *Royal C+D.* Four new titles are being launched. Free drinks plus discounts on books, with many of the contributing authors present to sign and dedicate. David L Clements, Una McCormack, Gareth L Powell, Ian Watson and Ian Whates.

First-Timers' Meeting. 6pm-7pm. *Room 41.* Never been to an Eastercon before? If you'd like to know a bit more about what's on and how to navigate your way though it all, come along and we'll help you make sense of everything. Rachael Livermore and The Magician.

Tech and the Masquerade - What is Possible / Impossible? 6pm-7pm. *Room 40.* Good tech can enhance any performance in the masquerade or cabaret. It's useful for performers to know what tech can and cannot do, and to use this knowledge to plan their act in advance. Come along, even if you're not performing this year. Clare Goodall (mod) and John Stewart.

FRIDAY

Convention Buffet Meal. 6pm-8pm. *Newbury 1.* The cheap meal option in the Brasserie and Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, talk to the hotel staff member at the entrance to the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Poly Social Gathering. 6pm-7pm. *Henleys Drawing Room.* A chance for poly people to have a social chat. Polyamory is a lifestyle in which consenting adults choose to have non-monogamous relationships with the prior agreement of their partner/partners. Under 18s only if accompanied by parent/guardian. DC and Carol Tierney.

Patent Your Flying Saucer! 7pm-8pm. *Connaught.* Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf presents some of the wonderful SF-style creations that people have patented (or had patent applications turned down for) in Sweden, Germany, France, UK and the USA. Perpetual motion machines are just the beginning... Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf.

Podcasts - Science Fiction and SF News. 7pm-8pm. *Room 12.* Where do you find them? What ones are available and which are the best ones? Chad Dixon (mod), Roy Gray, Juliet E. McKenna, Jim Mowatt and Carrie Mowatt.

Kids' Science Lab - Catapults, Spinners and Identifying Objects! 7pm-8pm. *Royal C+D.* Discovery. Identify objects by touch, make a colour spinner and design a catapult! Suitable for all ages, though younger kids will need an adult lab assistant. Unaccompanied grown-ups also welcome! Elaine Coates, Eira and Mark Slater.

Gender in Space Opera. 7pm-8pm. *Room 41.* Does the gender of the protagonist have any impact on the way the story is written? Are writers like Dave Weber and Elizabeth Moon simply writing a character who is female in name only, or is there a genuine difference in characterisation? How about Captain Janeway in Voyager? Does this difference actually matter? Deirdre Counihan, Jaine Fenn, PinkDormouse, Christian Sauve (mod) and Jenni Woodward.

FRIDAY

Art Show Launch - Meet the Artists. 7pm-8:30pm. *Room 38.* A chance to meet and talk to the artists about their work.

Opening Ceremony. 8pm-9pm. *Commonwealth.* The convention has already been running unofficially for most of the day, but by now almost everyone has arrived and so this is the time to formally introduce our guests and welcome everyone to Odyssey 2010. Iain M. Banks, Mike Carey, Melanie Davis, Fran Dowd, John Dowd, Carlos Ezquerra, Gaspodia, The Magician, Nige, Judith Proctor, Alastair Reynolds, Fiona Scarlett and Liz Williams.

Alternative Sexualities in SF Literature and Media. 9pm-10pm. *Connaught.* How are alternative sexualities and lifestyles represented in SF literature? How have these approaches changed over time? How accurate a picture do writers give of poly/gay/bi/trans people? Did SF help pave the way for wider acceptance of sexual minorities? No children without a responsible adult. Lilian Edwards, Persephone Hazard, Ian Jackson (mod), Roz Kaveney and Farah Mendlesohn.

Disability and Villains. 9pm-10pm. *Room 12.* Dr. Strangelove, Travis, Richard III. Why are villains so often portrayed as as having a disability? Are these fictional stereotypes a thing of the past? Do disabled actors have more choice of role in the present day? Paul F Cockburn, Heather (mod), Roger Octon, PinkDormouse, Pat Reynolds and Graham Sleight.

Filking - an Introduction - All Singers/ Listeners Welcome. 9pm-10pm. *Royal C+D.* Come along and have a chance to learn some of the classic and well known songs about Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Fans. Sing in a friendly social atmosphere with people who enjoy singing. Kate Soley Barton, Rafe Culpin, Rick Hewett and Valerie Housden.

Volunteers' Meeting. 9pm-10pm. *Room 41.* Would you like to help with the convention? Come along and join the gopher team. No experience required - all welcome. Rachael Livermore.

FRIDAY

Rope Bondage Workshop - Basic Techniques. 9pm-10pm. *Room 40.* If you've never tried Rope Bondage before this workshop will cover a range of knots and their uses as well as some simple introductory techniques. No Children. Affordable Graham and Judith Proctor.

Worldcon Bid Launch Party. 9pm-10pm. *Newbury 1.* Hosted by Chris Priest, this party launches your local bid for the 2014 Worldcon. A project that started with six sites across the UK and The Netherlands is now down to just two: Glasgow (1995 and 2005) and London (1957 and 1965). At tonight's event the bid city will be announced, the bid officially launched, and the fun and games will begin leading up to a vote at the 2012 Worldcon. Come along and support your Local Worldcon Bid. James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Steve Cooper, John Dowd, Gaspodia, Alice Lawson, Chris Priest and Mike Scott.

Battlestar Atlantia - Introduction. 9pm-10pm. *Newbury 2.* Introductory session for both players who pre-signed and those who want to join now. Freeform game for the survivors who escape after the Second Cylon War aboard the Battlestar Atlantia. Jonathan Ely and Emma J. King.

Ceilidh. 9:30pm-1am. *Commonwealth.* Dance with your friends to the music of Pigeon English or just relax with a drink and enjoy listening. Interval music will be provided by Gwen and 'Playing Rapunzel'. Start time is approximate. Gwen, Mich Sampson and Marilisa Valtazanou.

Blake's 7 Drinking Game. 10pm-12am. *Connaught.* You all know your favourite clichés. Come along and take a sip every time Avon is snarky! Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin and elfin.

It's Sh*t But We Like It - Crap TV and Film. 10pm-11pm. *Room 12.* The regular confessional for those cheesy things you know you *shouldn't* like... (Buck Rogers, anyone?) David L Clements, John Coxon, Tony Lee, Steve Rogerson (mod) and Fiona Scarlett.

FRIDAY

Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog. 10pm-11pm. *Royal C+D.* Get on your best Captain Hammer t-shirt, or lab coat and rubber gloves, and sing along with Joss Whedon's mini-series Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog! Subtitles will be provided. Emma Peel.

Physics of BDSM. 10pm-11pm. *Room 41.* How does the tesla coil in a violet wand actually work? What's the maths of load-spreading? Ever wondered about the Young's modulus of a cane? Our knowledgeable(!) presenters explain all. No children without a parent. Liam Proven and Doug S.

Filk Session. 10:30pm onwards. *Room 40.* Fannish singing and music - all welcome. Songs on every subject from cats to space ships! This item will start after Playing Rapunzel have performed in the ceilidh. (Because if you're a filk fan, you'll want to hear them!)

La Menace Vient De L'Espace - Film. 11pm-12am. *Royal C+D.* A new short film by Pierre-axel Vuillaume-Prezeau. 1950's cinema pastiche. Society is changing with the introduction of all-numeric communication. (We laughed out loud when watching it!) Emma Peel.

SATURDAY

Crafts After Breakfast - Clangers and Lightsabers. 8am-9am. *Room 19.* Work on one of the projects provided - knitting a Clanger, for example - or just bring along your own craft project and work in company. Jacqui.

Breakfast. 7am-10:30am. *Newbury 1.* Rise and shine. Meet your fellow fans for breakfast and enjoy the start of the day.

Quarterstaff Workshop. 9am-10am. *Commonwealth.* Steve Kilbane of Macdonald Academy of Arms gives a quick introduction to Quarterstaff. No experience necessary. Over-18s only. Steve K.

Living Forever - Is it a Good Thing? 9am-10am. *Connaught.* Many SF writers, e.g. Moon, Morgan, Heinlein, Banks, have speculated about rejuvenation or other possibilities for extending life for 100 years or even longer. Scientists and others discuss whether it can be done, and whether it would be ethical/desirable if it could be done. Mike Cobley (mod), Julian Headlong, Paul McAuley and Martin McGrath.

Red Dragons and Atomic Lorries: Early Welsh-Language SF. 9am-10am. *Room 12.* Craig Owen Jones explores the obstacles and difficulties the pioneering Welsh authors of the 50s, 60s and 70s faced in writing SF in Europe's oldest living language. Craig Owen Jones.

Tai Chi. 9am-10am. *Royal C+D.* Wake up gently with some light exercise.

Female Superheroes - Why Aren't There More of Them? 9am-10am. *Room 41.* Why are so many Superheroes male? Is it a stereotype or simply a reflection of the readership? Are female Superheroes less aggressive than men? Do they demand different storylines? Paul Cornell, Vincent Docherty (mod), Esther Friesner, Roz Kaveney and Sam Sykes.

Robot Workshop (Beyond Cyberdrome 3D). 9am-10am. *Room 18.* Come along and build a robot to explore the third dimension. Materials provided. All ages and abilities welcome, though kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Eira, Alex Holden and SMS.

SATURDAY

Feedback. 9:30am-10am. *Room 40.* If you're encountering any difficulties that the committee can help with (e.g. diet problems), then we'll try and sort things out. Gaspodia (mod), Judith Proctor and Fiona Scarlett.

Guest of Honour Interview: Carlos Ezquerra 10am-11am. *Commonwealth.* David Bishop, former editor of 2000AD, interviews Carlos Ezquerra, artist of well known characters such as Judge Dredd, Strontium Dog and The Stainless Steel Rat. (Will be replaced by '2000AD and its Influence' if Carlos is unable to attend the convention.) David Bishop and Carlos Ezquerra.

Worldcon 2014 and Eurocon 2014 - Should They Combine? 10am-11am. *Connaught.* The most recent European Worldcon (Glasgow in 2005) was also the 2005 Eurocon. Last night a bid for the 2014 Worldcon to be held in Europe was launched. So before we risk another tradition, we should ask ourselves: Are Worldcons the right place to hold a Eurocon? What does each one offer the other? And do the benefits outweigh the risks? Steve Cooper and Dave Lally (mod).

Quantum Computing for Beginners. 10am-11am. *Room 12.* Modern computers store information as electric charges and work by moving these charges along metal wires. New forms of computers have been built that harness the weirdness of the quantum world to perform calculations far faster than their electronic counterparts. This talk will provide a brief introduction to these fascinating new machines. Nik Whitehead.

Lindy Hop Dance Workshop. 10am-11am. *Royal C+D.* Lindy Hop is a jazz dance from the 1930's which is part of the swing dance family. Jim and Carrie will take you through some basic techniques to wake you up for the day and get you dancing and looking good to those delightful swinging tunes. Jim Mowatt and Carrie Mowatt.

Chinese Poetry - Do it Yourself Translation. 10am-11am. *Room 19.* Starting with a simple dictionary definition of the original Chinese, work in small groups to produce your own translation of classic Chinese poems. Alison Page (mod).

SATURDAY

Crisis Management Team Game - Second Group of Participants. 10am-12pm. *Room 17.* It's happening on your watch! Do you have a cool head? Can you make decisions under stress? Do you have the stomach needed to make life and death choices for your people and your species, to fend off disaster or decide who goes out the air lock first? A team of professional crisis managers will run teams of six (sign up at Registration) through a half-hour scenario. There are even prizes for those who have the lowest body count, or just survive the game! Nige and Gary Stratmann.

Guest of Honour Interview: Iain M. Banks. 11am-12pm. *Commonwealth.* Jane Killick talks to Iain M. Banks about his life and his writing. Iain M. Banks and Jane Killick.

Non-SF for SF Fans. 11am-12pm. *Connaught.* Would you like to expand your reading horizons? The panellists recommend non-SF/fantasy books which might appeal to SF readers. Chaz Brenchley, John Hawkes-Reed, John Jarrold and Duncan Macgregor (mod).

Watchmen Motion Comics. 11am-12pm. *Room 12.* Before the Watchmen Movie was Watchmen Motion Comics - a 'bringing to life' and narration of the original graphic novel. Discussion of the format, and alternate ending. Movie rated 15. Gaspode.

Circus Skills Workshop for Kids. 11am-12:30pm. *Royal C+D.* Roll up, Roll up!! The convention Big Top will be raised for any young people who want to try their hand at classic circus skills. If you have ever wanted to learn how to juggle, use a diabolo, walk on stilts, spin plates or perform simple balancing tricks this is your chance. Equipment provided by Skylight Circus. Eira.

European SF Society - Where Is it Heading? 11am-12pm. *Room 40.* Where does ESFS seem to be going? What are its long-term goals? What is its strategy for achieving these? What could Eurocon fans get from ESFS? A vital discussion for all involved in running prospective Eurocons. Jonathan Cowie, Vincent Docherty, Martin Hoare (mod), Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf and Roberto Quaglia.

SATURDAY

Choral Workshop - Green Hills of Earth. 11am-12pm. *Room 19.* Learn to sing Robert Heinlein's classic words, in harmony. For singers of all abilities: don't be afraid if you've never tried harmony before. The aim is for the group to perform this in the Cabaret. Kate Soley Barton, Valerie Housden and Rhodri James.

Convention Buffet Lunch. 11am-2pm. *Newbury 1.* The convention buffet lunch is served in the Brasserie and in Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, please tell the hotel staff in the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Masquerade and Cabaret Sign-Up. 11am-12pm. *Room 30.* If you want to appear in the masquerade or cabaret on Saturday night, you must attend one of the two sign-up sessions. We need to know your requirements and to work out your position in the running order. Clare Goodall (mod) and Tony Thorne MBE.

Bad Science - Ben Goldacre. 12pm-1pm. *Commonwealth.* Dr Ben Goldacre is a medical doctor and journalist, best known for his 'Bad Science' column. He campaigns against biased research, fraudulent claims (from both makers of nutritional supplements and the pharmaceutical industry) and poor media reporting of scientific research. Ben Goldacre.

Worldcon 2014 - Question and Answer Session. 12pm-1pm. *Connaught.* At last night's launch party the bid city was announced and the bid got officially under way. But a noisy party is no place for intelligent discussion, so come along today and put your questions to the bid team, about the site, about the bid and even about how to get involved. James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Steve Cooper (mod), John Dowd, Gaspodia, Alice Lawson and Mike Scott.

Watchmen - Was the Movie Worth It? 12pm-1pm. *Room 12.* The Watchmen movie was eagerly anticipated - did it live up to expectations? Gaspode, Tony Lee, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, Zoë Parkinson and Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin (mod).

SATURDAY

Open Autograph Session. 12pm-1pm. *Hotel Lobby.* Lots of our attending writers will be present to sign your books. Joe Abercrombie, Aliette de Bodard, Chaz Brenchley, Mike Carey, Mike Cobley, Paul Cornell, Stephen Deas, Jaine Fenn, Colin Harvey, Roz Kaveney, MD Lachlan, Claude Lalumière, MEG, Ian R. MacLeod, John Meaney, Ricardo Pinto and Liz Williams.

Beeblebears' Picnic. 12pm-1pm. *Henleys Drawing Room.* Bring a beeblebear and relax in company. All Hitchiker's fans welcome. Jim Mowatt.

Geoengineering - George Hay Lecture - Sponsored by SF Foundation. 1pm-2pm. *Commonwealth.* Geoengineering - the use of technology to cool the planet - is often taken as an alternative to the more conventional approaches to global warming: emitting fewer greenhouse gases and adapting to the changing climate. Framing geoengineering this way allows advocates to sell it as a quick fix, and opponents to see it as a dangerous, possibly disastrous, distraction. Oliver Morton will be arguing that this way of thinking is a blind alley. "We are not dealing with either/or, but with both/and. It is time to explore geoengineering's potential not as an alternative to other approaches, but as a tool to improve their chances of success." Oliver Morton.

Comic Songs: Exploring the Genre. 1pm-2pm. *Connaught.* Comic songs come in many styles: from Gilbert and Sullivan to Mitch Benn, through filk, folk and cabaret. Our panel take a relaxed look at who these songs are written for, how they have changed over time and what makes them funny. Kate Soley Barton, John Dowd, Fran Dowd, Anne KG Murphy and Dave M. Roberts.

2000 AD and its Influence (If Carlos Ezquerra is Available). 1pm-2pm. *Room 12.* How many of us grew up with Judge Dredd, Strontium Dog, and Halo Jones? How much influence do characters like Stickleback and Nicolai Dante have on today's readers? Is the comic a trend-setter or a follower? (If Carlos cannot be with us, then this item will be at Saturday 10am in the main hall.) David Bishop (mod), Mike Carey, Carlos Ezquerra and Alastair Reynolds.

SATURDAY

LabLit - Fiction Set In the Laboratory. 1pm-2pm. *Room 41.* Not so much Science Fiction as Scientific Fiction. LabLit is an emerging form of fiction that even has its own web site at www.lablit.com run by Dr Jennifer Rohn. Clare Boothby (mod), David L Clements, Henry Gee and Jennifer Rohn.

Costume - Performance and Presentation. 1pm-2pm. *Room 40.* What's the best way to present your costume in the Masquerade? What can you do to give an entertaining performance? Come along if you'd like to enhance your performance this year, or to gain inspiration for future conventions. Alison Page and James Steel.

Open Autograph Session. 1pm-2pm. *Hotel Lobby.* Lots of our attending writers, and some of our guests, will be present to sign your books. Iain M. Banks, Chris Beckett, Raven Dane, Ellen Datlow, Esther Friesner, Tony Thorne MBE, MEG, Juliet E. McKenna, Suzanne McLeod, Jonny Nexus, Philip Palmer, Gareth L Powell, Patrice Sarath, Mike Shevdon, Kari Sperring and Jetse de Vries.

Fantastic SF and Fantasy Make-Up Techniques. 2pm-3pm. *Commonwealth.* Talk and demonstration by Diana Joan Bass. FREE WART INCLUDED! Join Diana Joan Bass and a live model for a Make-up in Progress showing how to do science fiction and fantasy character make-ups using three dimensional prosthetic pieces, colour, texture and shading. Plus a display of Diana's work from concept drawings to finished make-ups. Diana Bass and Teddy.

Writers and the Web - Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon, etc. 2pm-3pm. *Connaught.* Is it essential to be on the Web to promote sales of your book? Which media are used in which ways? How do you interact with your readers online? Do you link to your bad reviews as well as your good ones? Joe Abercrombie, Maura McHugh (mod), John Meaney and Mark Charan Newton.

Boobs and Biceps - Gender Exaggeration in Comic Art. 2pm-3pm. *Room 12.* Discussion. Why are physical characteristics and gender differences such as breasts, biceps, waists and chins exaggerated so greatly in heroic comic strips? James Bacon, Sacha Haworth, Inamac (mod) and Terry Martin.

Evolution of Board Games. 2pm-3pm. *Royal C +D.* Board games started out as simple 'roll the die, move the counter' affairs, evolved through classics like Cluedo and Monopoly, and now have a whole new life, as German-style family games like 'Settlers of Catan' have invigorated and expanded the market. Sebastian Bleasdale, Mike Cobley (mod), Tim Kirk and Henry Proctor.

Writing in English as a Foreign Language. 2pm-3pm. *Room 41.* When your native language has different grammar, syntax and colloquialisms to English, what are the biggest pitfalls to avoid? What are the advantages of being able to write in English? Aliette de Bodard, Anna FDD, Gérard Kraus (mod), Claude Lalumière and Roberto Quaglia.

Dalek Catering - Make Your Own Dalek Cake - All Ages Welcome. 2pm-3:30pm. *Room 40.* This workshop invites you to look at our huge over-sugared pile of ingredients and assemble the best Dalek cake you can! Sugar overdose ahoy! Younger members should be accompanied by an adult or we can't guarantee they won't eat something that'll make them hyperactive all day. Rachel H, Ranger Hilary and Philippa Watts.

Kaffeeklatsch - Liz Williams. 2pm-3pm. *Room 18.* A chance for a limited number of fans (probably 10) to sit down for an hour with our guest of honour and have a conversation over coffee and biscuits. Liz Williams.

Writers' Workshop. 2pm-6pm. *Room 19.* The T-Party Writers' Group and Alastair Reynolds are your hosts for this four hour workshop. Work should have been submitted in advance. Break-out space is available in rooms 16 and 17. Gary Couzens, Caroline Hooton, Martin Owton, Rosanne Rabinowitz, Alastair Reynolds and Patrice Sarath.

Battlestar Atlantia. 2pm-3pm. *Newbury 2.* The scenario for this freeform game gets under way. It may still be possible for new players to join at this point. Jonathan Ely.

SATURDAY

Masquerade and Cabaret Set-Up and Rehearsal. 3pm-6pm. *Commonwealth.* All masquerade and cabaret participants will need to turn up, at the time they were given in the sign-up session, so that they can run through their routines with light and sound.

Bridging the Gap - SF/F and Social Media. 3pm-4pm. *Connaught.* Can SF and Social Media really help each other? What use are sites like Twitter to the community? How can writers and fans make these sites work for them? Join our panel as they discuss - and demonstrate - the answer. This event will be broadcast live in real time and will be accepting questions from virtual attendees. As far as we know, this is an industry first. This is #LiveCon. Paul Cornell, David Devereux, LOUDMOUTHMAN, Del Lakin-Smith and Danie Ware (mod).

Fan Guest of Honour Interview. 3pm-4pm. *Room 12.* Fran and John Dowd are well known for their contributions to fandom. Find out about their involvement in running conventions and far more besides. Claire Brialey, Fran Dowd and John Dowd.

Swordplay for Writers. 3pm-4pm. *Royal C+D.* Steve Kilbane explains how to describe realistic fights using rapiers, longswords, and other weapons. Steve K.

Science and the Media - Accuracy of Reporting? 3pm-4pm. *Room 41.* Why do the media so often mis-represent scientific issues? Why do people have difficulty understanding complex systems? Is it that issues are badly explained, or that the issues are too difficult to understand? David L Clements (mod), John Meaney, Sharon Reamer and Gerry Webb.

Drawing Comic Art. 3pm-4pm. *18.* Carlos Ezquerra demonstrates how he goes about drawing his well-loved characters. (If Carlos is unable to attend, then Al Davidson - currently illustrating Doctor Who for IDW - will demonstrate drawing techniques.) Sign up in advance at registration or ops. Carlos Ezquerra (mod).

SATURDAY

Battlestar Atlantia - Cabaret Challenge. 3pm-4pm. *Newbury 2.* Can crew members of the Battlestar Atlantia uphold the ship's honour and prestige by preparing an act for the Masquerade/ Cabaret later today? Jonathan Ely.

Geoengineering - A Broader Perspective. 4pm-5pm. *Connaught.* A discussion of the issues and ideas raised in the George Hay Lecture. Jonathan Cowie, John Coxon (mod), Phil Huggins and Oliver Morton.

Whisky Tasting with Iain Banks. 4pm-6pm. *Room 12.* Scotland is renowned worldwide for its whiskies. Who better to invite onto our tasting panel than Iain Banks, author of 'Raw Spirit: In Search of the Perfect Dram'? As well as the panel twenty lucky members of the audience will be able to partake in the tasting and try a dram from six specially selected whiskies from across the different regions of Scotland. If you wish to sign up for being a taster, then a sign up sheet will be going up in ops at 10 am on Saturday Morning. Names will be taken on a strictly first come first served basis. Iain M. Banks, Barndoor, Gaspode, Liz Williams and elfin (mod).

Bartitsu: Victorian Self-Defence with Overcoat, Wig and Parasol. 4pm-5pm. *Royal C +D.* Sherlock Holmes' martial art - called Baritsu by Doyle but Bartitsu in reality. The first line of defence is to look the ruffian in the eye and say 'do you know who I am?' The second is to utterly annihilate him! Steve K and MD Lachlan.

E-Books - Reading and Publishing. 4pm-5pm. *Room 41.* This panel will look at the experience of reading E-books: DRM, portability, availability, etc. It will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of publishing in E-book formats. NB. This is NOT a panel on the rights or wrongs of DRM. David Damerell (mod), Jo Fletcher, Gary Gibson, Lee Harris and Tommy Wareing.

Do You Worship Cthulhu? - Game. 4pm-5pm. *Room 40.* If you like Werewolf, the odds are that you'll like this as well. Sign up sheet can be found in the Games Room (Royal A). Dalg.

SATURDAY

Write a Doctor Who Song. 4pm-5pm. *Room 18.* Let our experts help you write a Doctor Who song to the tune of your choice. You bring the ideas, they'll help you write the song. Kate Soley Barton, Valerie Housden and Anne KG Murphy.

Tales From the White Hart - Scientific Tall Stories. 5pm-7pm. *Connaught.* In the spirit of Clarke's classic collection of short stories, we invite you to come and regale us with stories with a scientific theme or twist. Truth optional. Bonus points for saving the planet. There will be a small trophy for the most entertaining/convincing story. (You can tell a story even if you didn't sign up in advance.) Piers Beckley, David L Clements, Richard P Grant, Tom Hunter, Tony Thorne MBE, Martin Owton, Andrew Patton, Jennifer Rohn, Ian Whates (mod) and Andrew J. Wilson.

Juggling for Beginners. 5pm-6pm. *Royal C+D.* Juggling workshop. All welcome. Balls provided, but you can bring your own if you have any. Steve Grover.

Steampunk - Literature or Lifestyle? 5pm-6pm. *Room 41.* What is the appeal of Steampunk? Is it the books, or is it the opportunity to dress in really cool clothes and collect memorabilia from a more genteel era? Herr Döktor, Christopher J. Garcia, Peter Harrow (mod), Stephen Hunt, Jonathan Oliver and Marcus Rowland.

Werewolf for Kids. 5pm-6pm. *Room 18.* There's a werewolf in the village. Can you discover who it is before it kills all the villagers? Lisa Konrad.

Doctor Who. 6pm-8pm. *Commonwealth.* Doctor Who Easter special. The programme itself starts at 6:25pm, but keep your eye on the newsletter and Twitter for the possible announcement of a mystery extra happening at 6pm.

The Occult in Modern Urban Fantasy. 6pm-7pm. *Room 12.* Modern urban fantasy is strongly influenced by the occult. Why is the occult such a rich source of stories, and how do you keep your characters authentic but uncliched? Mike Carey, David Devereux, Suzanne McLeod and Pat Rigby-McMurray (mod).

SATURDAY

Book Launch Party - 'Shine' 6pm-7pm. *Royal C +D.* Jetse de Vries' anthology. Aliette de Bodard, Eva Maria Chapman, Gareth L Powell, Alastair Reynolds and Jetse de Vries.

European SF - Which European Writers Should We Be Reading? 6pm-7pm. *Room 41.* Our panel of European fans tell us which of their native writers they would recommend. We'll ask them mainly to recommend those who have been translated into English, but also to mention those who deserve the effort to read them in another language. Stephane Marsan, Ecki Marwitz, Kirill Pleshkov and Juhani Vuorio.

Convention Buffet Meal. 6pm-8pm. *Newbury 1.* The cheap meal option in the Brasserie and Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, talk to the hotel staff member at the entrance to the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Reading Critically. 7pm-8pm. *Connaught.* Literary criticism is the study, discussion, evaluation, and interpretation of literature. How do you read a text critically? How do you identify themes and pick up evidence to support your interpretation? What can we gain by reading SF and fantasy in this way? Owen Dunn (mod), Edward James, Farah Mendlesohn and Graham Sleight.

Sci-Fi London Film Festival - Short Film Preview, First Showing. 7pm-8pm. *Royal C+D.* Ahead of the 9th annual SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival (28 April - 3 May) we present a small selection of the films chosen for this year's line-up. SFL has a strong short film programme each year and we are delighted to get an exclusive glimpse.

Masquerade and Cabaret. 8pm-10pm. *Commonwealth.* Come along and admire the wonderful costumes made by your fellow fans. Then stay for the entertainment: songs, sketches, dancing and far more.

Non-Euclidean Geometry. 8pm-9pm. *Connaught.* 'The geometry of the place was all wrong' - A mathematical talk on spaces unlike our own, taking in Lovecraft, Lobachevsky and Escher along the way. Nicholas Jackson.

SATURDAY

Doctor Who - Informal Discussion About the Easter Special. 8pm-9pm. *Room 12.* A place for anyone who wants to chat about the episode they've just seen.

TAFF Report. 8pm-9pm. *Royal C+D.* TAFF stands for Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. It enables fans from the USA and UK to go to conventions on the other side of the Atlantic. Steve Green.

American Remakes of UK TV Programmes. 8pm-9pm. *Room 41.* British shows like 'Red Dwarf', 'The Office', and 'Life on Mars' have been remade by American TV. Does this approach give us good TV programmes? What other shows might benefit from American remakes? Christopher J. Garcia (mod), Gaspode, Tony Lee and Peter Wright.

Valerie and Her Week of Wonders - Film. 8pm-10pm. *Room 42.* This dreamlike fairy tale captures the coming-of-age of a young Czechoslovakian girl. After receiving a pair of earrings, Valerie starts to experience confusing, often Freudian, dreams of fear, hope, and anticipation. As her burgeoning sexuality sparks even more haunting escapades, Valerie must contend with an explosively surreal world that challenges and inspires her. Roz Kaveney hosts. Roz Kaveney.

Small Press Comics and Webcomics. 9pm-10pm. *Connaught.* Our panel take you on a guided tour of some of the vibrant small press comics and webcomics scenes. James Bacon, Crazy Dave (mod), Liam Proven and SMS.

BDSM Talk - Safety, Informed Consent, Safewords, Toys, Ideas. 9pm-10pm. *Room 40.* A talk about some of the basic concepts of BSDM such as 'Safe, Sane and Consensual'. It will also cover power exchange, warm-ups and related issues and demonstrate a few useful techniques with selection of items. No Children. Affordable Graham.

Auction - League of Fan Funds. 9:30pm-12am. *Royal C+D.* Raising money for TAFF, GUFF and other fannish causes. Come along and see what's for sale. Claire Brialey, Flick, Brian Gray, Steve Green, Anne KG Murphy, Ang Rosin and Alison Scott.

SATURDAY

Disco - New Romantics. 10pm-1am. *Commonwealth.* Dig out that frilly shirt. Slap on the eye liner. Dress as any gender you choose and dance the night away. Marwan.

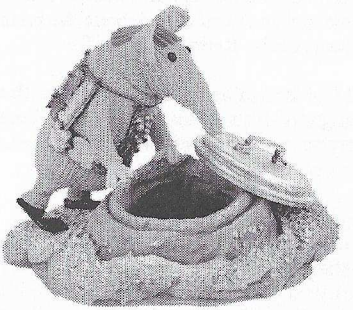
QI. 10pm-11pm. *Room 12.* Comedy panel quiz based around the BBC's "QI" format. Time to clean out your misguided myths, false folk tales and inaccurate inventions. Points awarded for being interesting. Sacha Haworth (mod).

Filk Session. 10pm onwards. *Room 41.* Fannish singing and music - all welcome. Silly songs, serious songs, SF songs!

Battlestar Atlantia. 10pm-11pm. *Newbury 2.* Battlestar Atlantia - the plot thickens... Jonathan Ely.

Ye Olde Slash Panel. 11pm-12am. *Connaught.* Late night discussion panel about all things slash (adults only!). Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin (mod) and elfin (mod).

Primeval Denial Drinking Game. 12am onwards. *Connaught.* Drinking game based on the show 'Primeval.' The Primeval Denial community welcomes everyone for an hour of raucous fun. No children. elfin.



Don't miss the International Symposium on Clanger Studies at 3PM on Monday!

SUNDAY

Breakfast. 7am-10:30am. *Newbury 1.* Rise and shine. Meet your fellow fans for breakfast and enjoy the start of the day.

Crafts After Breakfast - Clangers and Lightsabers. 9am-10am. *Room 19.* Work on one of the projects provided - knitting a Clanger, for example - or just bring along your own craft project and work in company. Jacqui.

Feedback. 9:30am-10am. *Room 40.* If you've a problem that the committee can help with, come along and we'll do our best to sort it out. Gaspodia (mod), Alex Holden, Judith Proctor and Fiona Scarlett.

Big Biology - What Are the Biggest Biological Tropes in SF? 10am-11am. *Commonwealth.* What biological ideas are being explored in current SF? Are there any important themes that are being overlooked? Stephen Gaskell, Paul McAuley, Michael Owen, Sharon Reamer (mod) and Gary Stratmann.

Anthologies - The Art of Compilation. 10am-11am. *Connaught.* What makes a good anthology? How do you set about collecting and editing stories to build a harmonious collection? Clare Boothby (mod), Gary Couzens, Ellen Datlow, Colin Harvey and Ian Whates.

Easter Service - Christian. 10am-11am. *Room 12.* Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Keris and Doug S.

Tai Chi Breathing Exercises for Health and Longevity. 10am-11am. *Royal C+D.* Gentle exercise to prepare you for the day ahead. No children. Fiona Anderson.

Legal Status of Fan Fiction and Video. 10am-11am. *Room 41.* Lawyers from within fandom (both American and British) will try to clarify the legal position of fannish productions such as fiction, video and costumes. (Please note, they cannot give legal advice on specific cases). Simon Bradshaw, Peter Harrow (mod) and Kat Takenaka.

Costume - Show and Tell. 10am-11am. *Room 40.* Bring along your costume from yesterday's masquerade, or any really good costumes that you've made in the past. Show them to other people and talk a bit about how you made them. James Steel.

Robot Workshop (Beyond Cyberdrome 3D). 10am-11am. *Room 18.* Come along and build a robot to explore the third dimension. Materials provided. All ages and abilities welcome, though kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Eira, Alex Holden and SMS.

Kaffeeklatsch - Mike Carey. 10am-11am. *Room 19.* A chance for a limited number of fans (probably 10) to sit down for an hour with our Guest of Honour and have a conversation over coffee and biscuits. Mike Carey.

Guest of Honour Talk: Alastair Reynolds. 11am-12pm. *Commonwealth.* Into the Great Wide Open: Science Fiction and the Modern Cosmos. Alastair Reynolds.

Deface the Music - Quiz. 11am-12pm. *Connaught.* The light hearted quiz on TV and film SF music is back. Pit your music knowledge against our teams, or just come and watch them squirm as they try to recognise your favourite tunes. Michael Davidson and Christine Davidson.

Writing BAD Blake's 7 Fic. 11am-12pm. *Room 12.* The traditional collaboration on a bad Blake's 7 fic, this year including a host of crossover fandoms thrown into the mix! No children. Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin and elfin.

Belly Dancing. 11am-12pm. *Royal C+D.* Come shake your booty. Wear loose clothing, hippy skirts (coin belt if you have one), bare feet or light, inside shoes. Basic class. Suitable for all levels of fitness, from 10 years up. Sue Mason.

Books: the Lure of First Editions, Leather Bindings, Art, etc. 11am-12pm. *Room 41.* A straightforward paperback would tell the story just as well, but books as physical objects carry their own appeal. Which books do our panel love the most and why? Do the quality of the paper, the font, the endpapers, the size, etc. make a big difference? Brian Ameringen, Peter Halasz, Rog Peyton and Pat Rigby-McMurray (mod).

SUNDAY

Easter Egg Hunt. 11am-12pm. *Room 40.* It's Easter, come and join in the Chocolate Egg hunt! Gaspodia.

Naming Pluto. 11am-11:30am. *Room 42.* Naming Pluto is a UK 13 minute documentary about Venetia Burney Phair, the English schoolgirl who named the planet Pluto in 1930, aged 11 years. Featuring Sir Patrick Moore, Dr. Allan Chapman, the Royal Astronomical Society and NASA, Naming Pluto looks back at the extraordinary human story of a young girl who made astronomical history and witnesses her long awaited reunion with the planet she named, 77 years later. Directed by Ginita Jimenez. Produced by Father Films.

Kaffeeklatsch - Carlos Ezquerra. 11am-12pm. *Room 18.* A chance for a limited number of fans (probably 10) to sit down for an hour with our guest of honour and have a conversation over coffee and biscuits. Carlos Ezquerra.

Convention Buffet Lunch. 11am-2pm. *Newbury 1.* The convention buffet lunch is served in the Brasserie and in Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, please tell the hotel staff in the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Eastercon Bid Session. 12pm-1pm. *Commonwealth.* Come and vote for which committees will run Eastercon in 2011 and 2012.

Exobiology 1.02. 12pm-1:30pm. *Connaught.* Jonathan Cowie is an environmental scientist who was for 15 years with the Institute of Biology and now works in (bio)science communications. He has had a lifelong interest in SF and a curiosity about the possibility of alien life. His original probability of alien life talk has been given at over a dozen conventions (and also to biologists at a couple of universities). This talk very quickly recaps part 1 and then goes on to new material in part 2. Jonathan Cowie.

Sci-Fi London Film Festival - Short Film Preview, Second Showing. 12pm-1pm. *Room 12.* Another chance to see a small selection of the films chosen for this year's 9th annual SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival line-up. SFL has a strong short film programme each year and we are delighted to get an exclusive glimpse.

SUNDAY

Mediaeval Combat and Rapier Demonstration By the SCA. 12pm-1pm. *Royal C+D.* The SCA has developed a combat system that combines full-speed un-choreographed fighting with very high safety standards. Come and see armoured warriors demonstrate their moves, as well as rapier enthusiasts duel in the styles of the old masters. Adam Edwards.

Writing Meaningful Reviews of TV Shows and Books. 12pm-1pm. *Room 41.* Too often reviews of TV programmes (or books) are a knee-jerk reaction condemning (or praising) a production while considering just one or two facets. What should a detailed review consider? How can we analyse more deeply? John Clute (mod), Chris Hill, Claude Lalumière, Abigail Nussbaum and Alison Page.

Young Adult Fiction - Junior Panel. 12pm-1pm. *Room 40.* The panel discuss their favourite SF and fantasy books. Michael Barker, Ford, Kethry-Ashira, Kyara (mod) and Charlotte Taylor.

Eastercon 2011 & 2012 Membership Desks. 12pm-4pm. *Hotel Lobby.* Now the bid session is over, you can go down to the hotel foyer and join the next two Eastercons.

Judge Dredd and Strontium Dog - Heroes or Anti-Heroes? 1pm-2pm. *Room 12.* How do writers and artists approach the concepts of heroes and anti-heroes? How are the two distinguished in terms of narrative and art? Does the difference actually matter? Tony Ballantyne, Dr Bob, Carlos Ezquerra, Steve Green (mod) and James Swallow.

Kids' Science Lab - Cars, Boats and Jet-Engines. 1pm-2pm. *Royal C+D.* Come and design your own boat, car and balloon-powered jet engine! Suitable for all ages, though younger kids will need an adult lab assistant. Unaccompanied grown-ups also welcome! Elaine Coates, Eira and Mark Slater.

Arthur C. Clarke - Still Worth Reading? 1pm-2pm. *Room 41.* Heinlein, Clarke and Asimov were once the 'Holy Trinity' of Science Fiction. Do their books still have something to interest new readers coming to Science Fiction today? Stephen Gaskell, Colin Harvey (mod), Tony Lee, Martin McGrath and Ian Whates.

SUNDAY

Acting for All - Workshop for Non-Actors (Adults). 1pm-3pm. *Room 40.* If you have never tried any acting before but you'd love to have a go and want to join a friendly group then Acting for All is for you! We will do some drama games, improvisations and work with scripts but most of all we hope to get your imagination and creativity going and have some fun! Ruby.

Redemption '11 - What Do You Want to See? 1pm-2pm. *Room 18.* Come along and suggest programme/workshop/game ideas for Redemption '11. Steve Rogerson (mod).

Harry Potter and the Half-Cut Prince - Rehearsal. 1pm-2pm. *Room 19.* Cast members only.

Stitch 'n' Bitch. 1pm-2pm. *Henleys Drawing Room.* A chance to sit down and stitch and have a friendly chat with other fans who enjoy stitchcraft hobbies (knitting, crotchet, sewing, lace-making, etc.) Beginners to experts, all welcome. Sacha Haworth.

Pyrotechnics - and the Walls Came Tumbling Down. 2pm-3pm. *Commonwealth.* Stephen Miller is an explosives consultant. His presentation will centre around a special effects sequence conducted for a feature film, with behind the scenes videos and demonstrations of some of the materials/ techniques used in the film along with other stage and film pyrotechnics. Warning: There will be smoke and loud bangs. Stephen Miller and Gary Stratmann.

Not The Clarke Awards. 2pm-3:30pm. *Connaught.* Our irascible panel of ex-judges and critics offer their usual forthright take on this year's shortlist for the Arthur C. Clarke Award. Claire Brialey (mod), Tony Cullen, Edward James, Ruth O'Reilly and Graham Sleight.

Art Auction. 2pm-5pm. *Royal C+D.* Come along and bid for all those wonderful pieces of art that you've been drooling over in the art show! Who knows what you might be able to take home with you? Chris Morgan and Rog Peyton.

Best Unread (in English) European SF Books. 2pm-3pm. *Room 41.* The Russian SF market is enormous, and Spanish is a major global language. What important SF novels in other languages are we missing? What are the barriers to getting foreign SF books published in English? Jonathan Cowie, Jo Fletcher, Kirill Pleshkov, Hannu Rajaniemi, Christian Sauve and Ian Watson (mod).

Equinoctial Ritual - a Celebration for Pagans. 2pm-3pm. *Newbury 1.* We know it's past March 21st, but we hope you'll join in our celebration of the equinox, led by one of our guests of honour. Liz Williams.

Battlestar Atlantia. 2pm-3pm. *Newbury 2.* The freeform game is now well under way and players are threatened by the unknown Cylons among them. Jonathan Ely.

Guest of Honour Interview: Mike Carey. 3pm-4pm. *Commonwealth.* Paul Cornell interviews Mike Carey about his work. Mike Carey and Paul Cornell.

What Makes a Feminist Heroine? 3pm-4pm. *Room 41.* Does a feminist heroine have to be unflawed? Can a feminist heroine have a love interest (or be one) without detracting from her character and plot development? Can a historical heroine be feminist without becoming an anachronism? Lilian Edwards, Jaine Fenn, Sam Kelly, PinkDormouse and Patrice Sarath (mod).

Junior Science - Question Time. 3pm-4pm. *Room 40.* Why is the sky blue? Why do things fall down instead of up? What is it like to go into space? Why do birds sing? Can you stump our panel of scientists...? (Adults welcome, but children's questions get priority!) Amanda Baker, Brian Gray, Simon Morden (mod) and Hannu Rajaniemi.

Kaffeeklatsch - Alastair Reynolds. 3pm-4pm. *Room 18.* A chance for a limited number of fans (probably 10) to sit down for an hour with our guest of honour and have a conversation over coffee and biscuits. Alastair Reynolds.

Fusion Power and the Joint European Torus. 4pm-5pm. *Commonwealth.* Anthony Webster, our guest speaker from JET, will talk about the physics of fusion. Can you say 'magnetohydrodynamics'... Anthony Webster.

SUNDAY

SUNDAY

BSFA Lecture: 2001 and the Narratology of Transcendence. 4pm-5pm. *Connaught.* Why does film, the most vivid and visceral of narrative media, struggle to capture the deepest, most powerful SF experiences? The bizarre untold story of the script of 2001, and the strange trajectory of screenwriting theory since, suggest why SF film remains trapped on this side of the narratological stargate... Tony Keen and Nick Lowe.

GUFF Trip Report and Candidate Interviews. 4pm-5pm. *Room 12.* Ang explains why you should vote in GUFF and displays her lovely pair of candidates. LostCarPark, Ang Rosin (mod) and Doug S.

Calligraphy and Manuscript Illumination Workshop. 4pm-6pm. *Room 18.* Learn how to produce beautifully-written documents with the help of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The art of writing spans centuries, continents and cultures. This is but one of the many practical skills and crafts researched and taught in the SCA. Adam Edwards.

Robot Workshop (Beyond Cyberdrome 3D). 4pm-5pm. *Room 19.* Come along and build a robot to explore the third dimension. Materials provided. All ages and abilities welcome, though kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Eira, Alex Holden and SMS.

Crisis Management Team Game - Third Group of Participants. 4pm-6pm. *Room 17.* It's happening on your watch! Do you have a cool head? Can you make decisions under stress? Do you have the stomach needed to make life and death choices for your people and your species, to fend off disaster or decide who goes out the air lock first? A team of professional crisis managers will run teams of six (sign up at Registration) through a half-hour scenario. There are even prizes for those who have the lowest body count, or just survive the game! Nige and Gary Stratmann.

Guest of Honour Interview: Liz Williams. 5pm-6pm. *Commonwealth.* Liz Williams, author of around a dozen novels, is one of our most original and unusual writers. Her work could be described as "thoughtful science fantasy." Her dozen or so novels include settings as varied as a far-future Mars ("Banner of Souls") and ancient Russia ("Nine Layers of Sky"). Her most recent book, "The Iron Khan," is an Inspector Chen novel, set in the Gobi Desert and featuring flying cities and dodgy potentates. Elizabeth Counihan and Liz Williams.

The Genius of Alan Moore. 5pm-6pm. *Connaught.* What is the secret of the appeal of Alan Moore's works? Why does it attract such a wide audience? Brian Gray, Steve K (mod), Jim de Liscard and Pádraig Ó Méalóid.

Information Decay and Archiving. 5pm-6pm. *Room 12.* Throughout history, there has been a trade-off between ease of storing data and speed of accessing that data. Our speaker will look at data storage from the papyrus strip through to the Internet age and discuss the compromises necessary. Sam Kelly.

Physics of Weapons - for Children of All Ages. 5pm-6pm. *Royal C+D.* What makes weapons dangerous? Why does armour protect people? How do we make the biggest and most destructive weapon ever? This is an "RI Christmas Lecture"-style talk, with plenty of opportunities for members of the audience to take part in demonstrations. Parents (and other adults) are welcome. Nik Whitehead.

Eastercon Forum - Expectations of Childcare/ Kids' Programming. 5pm-6pm. *Room 41.* As more fans have children and want to bring them to conventions, so con committees have to consider what provision to make for the children. What are reasonable/unreasonable expectations for parents to have of an Eastercon? Crazy Dave, Gaspodia, Peter Harrow, Dave Lally (mod) and Mark Slater.

Costume - How to Adapt Patterns. 5pm-6pm. *Room 19.* How to adapt commercial printed patterns to make the costume of your choice. Teddy.

BSFA Awards. 6pm-7pm. *Commonwealth.* The British Science Fiction Association Awards, hosted by Ian Watson and Donna Scott. Iain M. Banks, Mike Carey, Alastair Reynolds, Donna Scott, Ian Watson and Liz Williams.

SUNDAY

Cutting Your Carbon Footprint. 6pm-7pm. *Connaught.* Keeping global temperature rise under 2C (3.7F) will be almost impossible unless carbon emissions begin to fall within a decade. How can we reduce our footprint? Amanda Baker, Henry Gee (mod), Phil Huggins and Judith Proctor.

Church of Chocolate. 6pm-7pm. *Royal C+D.* The one true religion, as all fans know, is chocolate. Come and worship at the altar and receive the blessed sacrament. Esther Friesner.

Tax and Royalties - a Writer's Survival Guide. 6pm-7pm. *Room 41.* Tax expert Liz Zitzow talks about royalties and tax issues on both sides of the Atlantic and explains how new writers can make their situation as favourable as possible. Lizzit.

Poetry Reading - Poets and Listeners Both Welcome. 6pm-7pm. *Room 40.* Chris Morgan was Birmingham's Poet Laureate for 2008-9. He welcomes you to bring your own poems to read, or to come along and listen to the performance. Chris Morgan.

Convention Buffet Meal. 6pm-8pm. *Newbury 1.* The cheap meal option in the Brasserie and Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, talk to the hotel staff member at the entrance to the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Poly Social Gathering. 6pm-7pm. *Henleys Drawing Room.* A chance for poly people to have a social chat. Polyamory is a lifestyle in which consenting adults choose to have non-monogamous relationships with the prior agreement of their partner/partners. Under 18s only if accompanied by parent/guardian. DC and Carol Tierney.

Virtual Attendees - Conventions' Future or a Minority Interest? 7pm-8pm. *Connaught.* There's an increasing interest in live-blogging from conventions, making podcasts available on the web and even people contributing to programme items without being physically present. How far can this trend go? Should it be encouraged? What might it do to convention programmes and economics? Vincent Docherty, Fran Dowd, Cheryl Morgan (mod), Jim Mowatt and Danie Ware.

SUNDAY

Film Premiere From Sci Fi London Film Festival (first showing). 7pm-9pm. *Royal C+D.* An exclusive to Odyssey. We cannot announce the surprise film until the night but it will be a movie from the 2010 SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival line-up.

Avatar - Was the Film Truly Ground-Breaking? 7pm-8pm. *Room 41.* Avatar was meant to "change how we think of film forever." Did it? John Coxon, Gaspode, Tony Lee, Henry Proctor and Jetse de Vries (mod).

SF and Fantasy TV for Teens - Junior Panel. 7pm-8pm. *Room 40.* What SF/Fantasy programmes do our younger members like to watch? Why do they like them? Do they prefer programmes made for their age group, or adult programmes, or both? Michael Barker, Ford, Karen Furlong and Blazing Skies (mod).

Sock Knitting - a Workshop for Beginners. 7pm-9pm. *Room 19.* Ever wondered why so many fans enjoy knitting socks? Come along and try your hand, with instruction and advice from an expert knitter. Materials provided. Numbers limited. Gwen.

Harry Potter and the Half-Cut Prince - Musical. 7:15pm-8pm. *Commonwealth.* Ian Sorensen's comedy musical. Some adult content. Julia Daly, Julian Headlong, Alice Lawson, Ang Rosin, Yvonne Rowse, Doug S, Ian Sorensen and Steve.

Writing for Audio. 8pm-9pm. *Connaught.* How do writing techniques differ for audio drama? How do writers go about setting the scene, conveying the characters, and developing the image in our imaginations? Jack Bowman, Paul Cornell, David Devereux, Martin Easterbrook (mod) and Philip Palmer.

One Minute Past Eight: a Sunday Odyssey - Film. 8pm-9:30pm. *Room 12.* Originally produced in 2001, celebrating the two Space Odyssey movies 2001 and 2010, this play was recorded and edited into a movie. The remastered version presented here includes CGI enhancements and extras. Running time 103 minutes. It's the one with the dancing monoliths. David Wake.

SUNDAY

Stainless Steel Rats and Rogues - Why Do We Love Them? 8pm-9pm. *Room 41.* From Robin Hood to Han Solo, via Slippery Jim diGriz and countless others, we will always have a place in our hearts for the lovable rogue. Why are characters with a code of honour but a complete disrespect for the law so enchanting? Tanya Brown, Henry Gee, Farah Mendlesohn and Anne KG Murphy (mod).

Battlestar Atlantia. 8pm-9pm. *Newbury 2.* After the crew have eaten, there's the small problem of surviving long enough to locate Kobol - if it even exists... Jonathan Ely.

Mitch Benn. 9pm-10pm. *Commonwealth.* Mitch Benn entertains. Some of the jokes may be adult in nature. Children allowed, as long as accompanied by parents.

Bondage Workshop - Chest Harness and Hog-Tie. 9pm-10pm. *Room 40.* Learn how to tie a variant of the hog-tie. No Children. Affordable Graham and Judith Proctor.

Steampunk Ball. 10pm-1am. *Commonwealth.* Welcome to the Steampunk Ball. You'll be dancing to the music of Ghostfire. Dress in your finest Victorian/Goth clothing or just come along as the fancy takes you. John Naylor has donated a weekend membership to the Asylum 2010 as a prize for the best costume. Peter Harrow.

Announcement of the 2010 Hugo Award Nominations. 10pm-11pm. *Connaught.* The 2010 Hugo Awards will be presented at Aussiecon 4, the 2010 Worldcon in Melbourne, Australia. The list of nominations will be announced live by this year's Hugo Administrator, Vincent Docherty, here at Odyssey. The Hugos are considered by many to be the SF's top award for achievement and there will be wide interest in the results. Come along to make the announcements a big event and to congratulate any nominees who are here at the con! Vincent Docherty.

Filk Session. 10pm onwards. *Room 12.* Fannish singing and music - all welcome. Solo songs, duets, sing-a-longs, and everything in between.

Bondage Workshop - Dragonfly Harness. 10pm-11pm. *Room 40.* Learn how to tie this decorative and effective arm binder. No Children. Affordable Graham and Judith Proctor.

MONDAY

Breakfast. 7am-10:30am. *Newbury 1.* Rise and shine. Meet your fellow fans for breakfast and enjoy the start of the day.

Crafts After Breakfast - Clangers and Lightsabers. 9am-10am. *Room 19.* Work on one of the projects provided - knitting a Clanger, for example - or just bring along your own craft project and work in company. Jacqui.

Turning Manga and Anime into Live Action Movies - Does it Work? 10am-11am. *Connaught.* Hollywood has started a trend of taking Japanese Anime and Manga and turning them into live-action movies such as "Blood - The Last Vampire" and "Dragonball". Are they making a mess of them or are they quite good? Dan, Gaspode (mod), James Swallow and Kat Takenaka.

Groats - Designing Fannish Currency. 10am-11am. *Room 12.* Our Fan Guest of Honour John Dowd talks about how he got involved with Groats, Groats as a currency, the design of currencies, and how those designs influenced the groats he produced for a number of Eastercons and the last Worldcon. John Dowd and Alice Lawson.

Tai Chi for Self-Defence. 10am-11am. *Royal C +D.* Tai Chi with a practical look at its use in self-defence. No children. Fiona Anderson.

Fantasy and SF - Differing Attitudes to YA and Adult Readers. 10am-11am. *Room 41.* Many books targeted at children and young adults are fantasy or SF, and this is considered as the mainstream. So why is it less acceptable for adults to like SF and fantasy? Elizabeth Counihan, Terry Edge, Sabine Furlong (mod) and Gillian Redfearn.

Stargate 1969 - RPG. 10am-1pm. *Room 30.* The Stargate has glitched and you've ended up in 1969. There is some good news and some bad news. The good news is that this once happened to SG-1 and they figured out a way home. The bad news is that while they ended up in America, you appear to be in Vietnam. An RPG for five people, run by Dr Bob. Pre-generated characters are provided. Dr Bob.

MONDAY

Herschel - The Latest Images From Space. 11am-12pm. *Commonwealth.* Talk by Dave Clements on the latest news about the Herschel Space Telescope. David L Clements.

Panels and Pages. 11am-12pm. *Connaught.* Demonstrating how an artist goes about building a set of panels to go together on a page. (If Carlos is unable to attend, then Al Davidson - currently illustrating Doctor Who for IDW - will replace him.) Carlos Ezquerra (mod).

Language and Dialect in Writing. 11am-12pm. *Room 12.* Use of language can be a very effective way of creating an atmosphere. Writers use languages and dialects, both real (e.g. Glaswegian) and constructed, phonetics (e.g. Feersum Endjinn), and archaic or invented words. Does using language in these ways make the reader's experience more immersive, or does it serve as a bar to understanding? How interdependent are language and culture? Iain M. Banks, Gary Couzens, Cheryl Morgan (mod) and Jude Roberts.

North West Morris Dancing for Beginners. 11am-12pm. *Royal C+D.* North West Morris originates in areas like Lancashire. It was typically danced in processions and at carnivals - often with the village band. It's a colourful, lively dance and a great way to start your morning. Wear whatever you like. Musicians welcome. Tony Ballantyne and Judith Proctor.

Humour in SF and Fantasy. 11am-12pm. *Room 41.* Writers of humorous Fantasy and SF discuss the amusing side of literature with a comedian. John Coxon (mod), Raven Dane, Esther Friesner, Jonny Nexus and Donna Scott.

La Menace Vient De L'Espace - Film. 11am-12pm. *Room 42.* A new short film by Pierre-axel Vuillaume-Prezeau. 1950's cinema pastiche. Society is changing with the introduction of all-numeric communication. (We laughed out loud when watching it!)

Convention Buffet Lunch. 11am-2pm. *Newbury 1.* The convention buffet lunch is served in the Brasserie and in Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, please tell the hotel staff in the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

MONDAY

Scrabble Tactics. 12pm-1pm. *Connaught.* How do the tactics of online Scrabble differ from playing face to face? What are the best ways to obtain seven letter words? How can you gain maximum score from the tiles in your hand? What are the most useful words to know? Affordable Graham (mod), Pádraig Ó Méalóid and Doug S.

Springheel Jack and the Wireless Theatre Company. 12pm-1pm. *Room 12.* The Wireless Theatre Company joins us to discuss two new exciting audio dramas – 'The Strange Case of Springheel'd Jack', starring Julian Glover, and 'Space Commander:2010!', their forthcoming live-audience radio production, and their work with names such as Nicholas Parsons, Timothy West, Prunella Scales and Richard O'Brien. Jack Bowman.

Steampunk My Child/Parent - Make Your Own Raygun! 12pm-1pm. *Royal C+D.* Bring along your child/parent and get into the Steampunk mood! Definitely a family activity. Peter Harrow.

Novels, a Product of Their Time. 12pm-1pm. *Room 41.* Each novel is a story for its time. Many excellent SF stories are of no interest at all to the next generation, while others seem to stay perennially popular. Technology, science, social attitudes and even writing styles change over time. Which factors are most likely to make an old book popular or unpopular with new readers? What should new novels reflect? Ellen Datlow (mod), Caroline Mullan, Graham Sleight and Jetse de Vries.

How to Send Your Script to the BBC. 12pm-1pm. *Room 40.* Piers Beckley works for the BBC department that handles unsolicited scripts. He will talk about the best ways to improve your odds of success. Piers Beckley.

Old Time Radio - Operation Tomorrow. 1pm-2pm. *Commonwealth.* It is the year 1950. Whilst working on another project Professor Wilbur Malcolm discovers something that, up until then, was considered an unobtainable dream - TIME TRAVEL! He sends his assistant, Fred Andrews, into the future to 2050. There he

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discovers a horrifically altered version of the city he once knew - at war for nearly a hundred years. Can Fred change the past to prevent this future from happening?

Just a Minute. 1pm-2pm. *Connaught.* Four fans/ guests must try to talk for a minute without hesitation, repetition or deviating from the given subject. John Dowd, Lisa Konrad, Sue Mason, Neil, Henry Proctor (mod) and Alastair Reynolds.

Climate Scepticism: Pros and Cons. 1pm-2pm. *Room 12.* Not everyone goes along with the UN's IPCC view of climate change. Is there any merit to climate scepticism? The author of a UN Environment Programme recommended university climate textbook examines some of the key areas of debate. Jonathan Cowie.

Verne, Wells and the Classics - Are They Steampunk? 1pm-2pm. *Room 41.* Verne, Wells and Shelley wrote in Victorian times and gave us some of the classic SFnal images of that era. Is their work steampunk? What would they have made of steampunk? What would they be writing if they were writing now? Stephen Hunt (mod), Marcus Rowland, Paul Skevington and Kat Takenaka.

Old Time Radio - They Walk Amongst Us Here. 2pm-3pm. *Commonwealth.* Three astronauts are pioneering a landing on Mars in 1953 in a trip to establish whether intelligent life forms exist on the planet. Are they being watched? Is something manipulating what they see? What will happen to our hero, locked in a space ship cabin with only 3" thick steel walls between him and the Martians?

Icons, Symbolism and Archetypes - Moving Between Faith & Fiction. 2pm-3pm. *Connaught.* Fantasy fiction, art and media draw on many tropes from religion, whether Christian, Pagan or from further afield. Is the traffic all one way, or do religions (be it in services, ideas, symbols or art) ever draw upon the resource that is fantasy? Do religions consciously use the power of myth? Piers Beckley, Paul Cornell, Christine Davidson (mod), Gaspodia and Jean Thompson.

Black Holes for Beginners. 2pm-3pm. *Room 12.* Black holes are a staple part of the science fiction diet - stellar corpses around which the laws of physics break down and strange things start to happen. This talk explains what black holes are, how they are formed and what's likely to happen if you get too close to one. Nik Whitehead.

Balloon Modelling. 2pm-3pm. *Royal C+D.* Model animals, balloons, swords, whatever you like. Balloons and pumps provided. Rachel H, Ang Rosin and Lucy Smithers.

Fandom as Gerontocracy. 2pm-3pm. *Room 41.* Caroline Mullan and Greg Pickersgill consider fandom in the light of the ages of its active participants. Is fannish age better reckoned in years of actual age or of participation in fandom? Does fannish age bring fannish wisdom and respect, or are we old farts past it? Is the greying of fandom real or only perceived? Caroline Mullan and Greg Pickersgill.

Battlestar Atlantia Wrap-Up. 2pm-3pm. *Newbury 2.* How does it all end? Do the survivors reach Kobol? Are there any survivors? Who were the Cylons? Jonathan Ely.

Old Time Radio - The Outer Limits. 3pm-4pm. *Commonwealth.* It's 1955 - Steve is the best pilot there is and today is the day he is taking a new ship on a test run to clear the outer limits of the earth's gravitational pull. After he breaks radio contact and has been out of contact for ten hours with no fuel - things look dangerously worrying. But he returns with some ominous news...

Escaped Lions and Runaway Elephants - True Stories. 3pm-4pm. *Connaught.* True, and sometimes grisly stories of people who met wild animals in unexpected places. Linda Stratmann.

Clanger Symposium - Study of a Knitted Alien Race. 3pm-4pm. *Room 12.* A serious scientific conference studying the Clangers. We hope to have papers presented to study their genetics (knit 1, purl 2), problems in ferro-poultry engineering (iron chickens), physics (the lifting power of musical notes) and other topics worthy of dedicated study. Simon Bradshaw, Henry Gee, Maredudd ap Gwylim, PinkDormouse, Richard Proctor, Liam Proven and Mark Sinclair.

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Dollhouse: Ethics and Identity. 3pm-4pm. *Room 41.* Dollhouse has led many to query if Whedon is misogynist or mad scientist or something else. The panel explore the nature of identity and ethics within the Dollhouse. Liz Batty, Paul Cornell, John Coxon, Affordable Graham, Steve K (mod) and Tony Lee.

Beyond Cyberdrome 3D: Robots Explore the Third Dimension. 3pm-4pm. *Newbury 1.* An accident at the Quite Big Hadron Collider facility under Heathrow airport has caused a portal to open into the Third Dimension. Our team of intrepid scientists and engineers will be using highly advanced robots to explore the mysterious new world of "up." Both participants (Bring Your Own Robot) and impartial observers are welcome at what is sure to be the scientific spectacle of the year. Eira, Alex Holden and SMS.

Closing Ceremony. 4pm-5pm. *Commonwealth.* Time to say 'Goodbye' to our guests and 'Thank You' to all those who helped. There will still be programme events after this, but the Closing Ceremony is the formal end of Odyssey 2010.

Intelligent Life in the Universe: Still a Believable Concept? 4pm-5pm. *Connaught.* The last fifty years have brought great advances in astronomy but aliens remain undetected. Is it time to relegate the idea to the same limbo as FTL? Andrew Patton.

Academic Robes and Their History. 5pm-6pm. *Connaught.* An illustrated talk about the evolution of academic gowns and hoods from their ecclesiastical origins in the Middle Ages to the university graduation ceremonies of the present day. Nicholas Jackson.

Researching Fantasy - How Do You Research the Imaginary? 5pm-6pm. *Room 12.* Fantasy writers have many sources to draw on - myths and legends, other fantasy, their own imaginations. How do they go about creating convincing versions of nonexistent magic, worlds, and creatures? Raven Dane, Jane Killick (mod), MD Lachlan and Liz Williams.

Heroes - Did it Live Up to Expectations? 5pm-6pm. *Room 41.* As we reach the end of the curent chapter of Heroes, we look back and see if it lived up to its early promise. Chad Dixon, Gaspode, Roz Kaveney and Emma Peel (mod).

Clarke's Law - Is Today's Technology 'Magic' to Most People? 6pm-7pm. *Connaught.* "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Is the average (reasonably educated) person finding science and technology easier to understand or is it increasingly seeming like magic? What are the likely consequences? Martin Easterbrook (mod), Stephen Hunt, Andrew Patton, Pepper and Shana Worthen.

Alien Invasions - How Would They Attack? How Do We Defend? 6pm-7pm. *Room 12.* Suppose the aliens really did invade... What would be the most effective way for them to attack? What could Earth practically do to defend itself? What can we do in advance to make Earth more secure? Michael Abbott (mod), Ming, Anne KG Murphy, Nige and David U.

Dead Dog Party. 6pm-7pm. *Royal C+D.* Everyone who's still here collapses and socialises with the other survivors. There are rumours that Esther Friesner will be practising cheeblemancy... Let the hamster tell your fortune and raise money for the homeless! Esther Friesner.

Sherlock Holmes - Did You Like the Movie? 6pm-7pm. *Room 41.* Does it bear any relationship to the books? Does this matter? Were the writers targeting it at slash fans? Does it have a Steampunk element? John Coxon (mod), Richard Crawshaw, DC, Herr Döktor and Peter Harrow.

Convention Buffet Meal. 6pm-8pm. *Newbury 1.* The cheap meal option in the Brasserie and Newbury. If you have special dietary requirements, talk to the hotel staff member at the entrance to the Brasserie - they're very helpful.

Grammar Police. 7pm-8pm. *Connaught.* What punctuation errors annoy you the most? Who should be lined up against the wall and shot?

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Which correct form of English would you like to see given wider usage? Does correct English really matter? Owen Dunn (mod), Persephone Hazard, Lizzit, Kari Sperring and Jetse de Vries.

London as an SF/F Setting for Books, Comics and TV. 7pm-8pm. *Room 12.* From Doctor Who to Neverwhere to Stickleback in 2000AD, London has made many appearances in Fantasy and SF (and even as board games). The panel discuss the different ways in which the capital has been portrayed. Sebastian Bleasdale, Mike Carey, Roz Kaveney, Pat Rigby-McMurray (mod) and Mike Shevdon.

Film Premiere From Sci Fi London Film Festival (second showing). 8pm-10pm. *Connaught.* An exclusive to Odyssey. We cannot announce the surprise film until the night but it will be a movie from the 2010 SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival line-up.

Dead Dog Party - Equipment Sale. 8pm-9pm. *Royal C+D.* This is where we sell any computers, printers, whatever that we bought for convention use and no longer need. Come along and see if you can pick up a bargain. Nige.

Bad Sex in SF. 9pm-10pm. *Room 12.* Our dedicated panel have selflessly scoured the literature in order to bring you the absolute nadir of badly-written sex scenes. If it's as funny as the last time they did this, you'll hear the laughs/groans/vomiting from half-way down the corridor! No children without a responsible adult. Brian Ameringen, Sacha Haworth, Persephone Hazard (mod), Liam Proven and Doug S.

Galaxyquest - Film. 9pm-11pm. *Royal C+D.* Everyone's favourite homage/parody of Star Trek. The film that understands fans from the inside. And if that doesn't convince you to come along, it has Alan Rickman...

Filk Session. 10pm onwards. *Room 40.* Fannish singing and music - all welcome. Singing robots, singing Elves, singing Hobbits and singing Very Tired Convention Goers...

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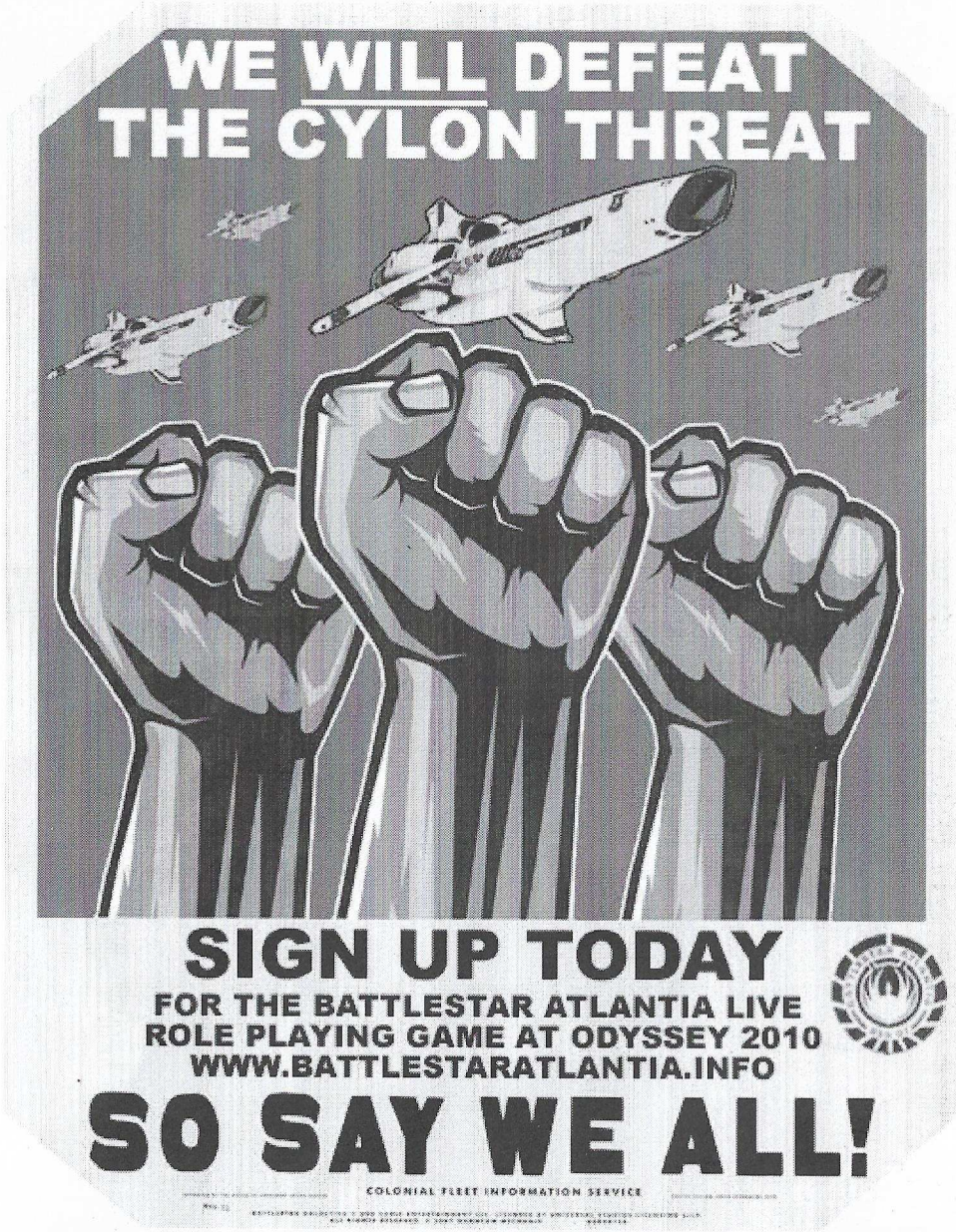

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